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Actual image



More nature

Large green spaces compared with the built-up area

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More play

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More Life.



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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



In last lap, Diana Edulji speaks up, slams CoA



'Not very open, seen favouring certain states'

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 11

DAYS BEFORE they demit office, the long-standing dispute within the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) is out in the open.

Former India captain Diana Edulji, one of the members of the CoA, has broken her silence to lash out at the two other members, saying she is "not at all happy" with the processes adopted by the committee. "We are not very open, we are seen favouring certain states. That is not the idea of CoA, even today Justice RM Lodha said dilution is too much," she told *The Indian Express*.

This was a reference to a remark by Justice (ret'd) Lodha Friday — whose roadmap set up the CoA — that the reform process has been diluted.

On Thursday, BCCI electoral officer N Gopalswami disqualified nominations from five state associations and three government bodies in the electoral roll for the elections, set to be held in Mumbai on October 23, which

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INTERVIEW

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SINO-INDIAN INFORMAL SUMMIT

On Day One, Modi and Xi talk trade, terror and threat they face from radicalisation

Both leaders will meet again today; delegation-level talks to follow; investment areas to be focus

SHUBHAJIT ROY
MAHABALIPURAM, OCT 11

PICKING UP from Wuhan where they met in April last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, on Day 1 of their second informal summit, Friday said that "radicalisation was a matter of concern" to both countries and they would work together to see that radicalisation and terror do not affect the fabric of the multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies in their countries.

Disclosing what transpired at the 150-minute one-on-one discussion between the two leaders in the seaside town of Mahabalipuram near Chennai, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said both leaders felt that radicalisation and terror was a "common challenge" for both countries which are "diverse" and "complex".

While sources did not rule out the possibility of J&K having been discussed, the indications are that the Chinese

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mahabalipuram on Friday. ANI RELATED REPORT, PAGE 10

Bengal on boil over killings, family says no link to any Parivar, only ours

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
JIYAGUNJ, SAHAPUR, OCT 11

AS THE murders of Bandhu Prakash Pal, his wife and five-year-old son in Murshidabad snowballed into a political row with the BJP targeting the ruling TMC government in West Bengal claiming Pal was an RSS functionary, his family Friday said he was not associated with any political party or organisation and lashed out at both parties for politicising the issue.

Pal (40), a teacher, his wife Beauty (30) and their son Angan (5) were found murdered at



Bandhu's mother Maya in Barala, Murshidabad. Partha Paul

their home in Lebu Bagan area of Jiaganj Tuesday.

"He was like a white paper. Who told you he is a BJP member? He was never associated with BJP or Trinamool Congress. He was never with RSS. These are lies being spread," said Maya Pal (68), Pal's mother at their house in Barala village, Sahapur under Sagardighi police station.

The bodies of Pal and his son were found in one room and Beauty's in another. Police said husband and wife were hacked to death and Angan strangled first and then assaulted with a heavy object to ensure that he died. Police said four men were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

First contraction in two years, IIP dips 1.1% in Aug

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

FACTORY OUTPUT contracted 1.1% in August as against a growth of 4.2% reported a month ago, signalling a deepening of the economic downturn. August's IIP print is the lowest in the last 81 months and the first contraction since June 2017, setting the stage for further monetary easing of benchmark interest rates in the next policy review in December.

The slide in the headline IIP numbers has been triggered by a contraction in manufacturing and electricity, alongside a record contraction in the production of capital goods — reflective of the weak investment climate. A slide in the output of infrastructure goods and consumer durables offers pointers to the underlying weak demand conditions.

The fall in the IIP number is in line with the contraction in the August core sector, as

EXPLAINED
E.

More needed to boost growth

THE IIP contraction in August, particularly in capital goods, clearly points to the persistent weak investment climate. This will prompt RBI to cut rates further, and force the government to aggressively pursue disinvestment to generate resources for increasing public expenditure.

reflected in data released earlier this month by the industry department, which showed that India's eight infrastructure sectors — constituting about 40% of the IIP — contracted for the first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Corporate tax cut: 'Suit boot ki sarkar jibe stalled it, welfarism helped it'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE CORPORATE tax structure reforms announced by the NDA government last month were initially proposed four to five years ago but the "suit, boot ki sarkar" jibe made it difficult for the government to undertake the corporate tax reform, Arvind Subramanian, senior fellow at Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics and former Chief Economic Adviser, said.

Speaking at the O P Jindal Distinguished Lectures at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Subramanian said that in the wake of the current downturn, the government



Former CEA Arvind Subramanian. File

acquired the political capital to undertake more difficult reforms such as the recent corporate tax reform. Subramanian was CEA when former Congress president Rahul Gandhi directed the "suit, boot ki sarkar" jibe at the NDA government in October 2014.

"It's a major corporate tax

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

I am penniless, money is with Radha Soami chief, Malvinder tells court

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

A DAY after they were arrested for alleged diversion of funds and causing a loss of Rs 2,397 crore to Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL), brothers Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, former promoters of Religare Enterprises Ltd, were remanded in four-day police custody Friday.

Before they were led away with three others arrested with them, Malvinder's counsel Manu Sharma told a Delhi court that his client did not have a "single penny" and that investigators were not arresting a "person to



Shivinder, Malvinder were sent to 4-day custody. ANI

whose doorstep the money leads as he is heading a great

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Citing poll code, Wardha varsity expels 6 students who protested against Govt, wrote letter to PM

'We were hundred...three Dalits, three OBCs singled out'

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, OCTOBER 11

IN AN unusual interpretation of the model code of conduct, six students of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (MGAHV) in Maharashtra's Wardha have been expelled for organising a dharna and writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi protesting, among other things, rising incidents of mob lynching and "shielding" of leaders accused of rape.

In an order issued October 9, Acting Registrar Rajeshwar Singh said the students were being expelled for "violating the 2019 assembly election code of conduct and interfering in the judicial process" by organising a group dharna.

Chandan Saroj, one of the six students thrown out, said though some 100 students were present at the dharna on October 9, university authorities took action "selectively against three Dalit and three OBC students". He said "there were many upper caste students too in solidarity

with us".

The expulsion order identified the students as Chandan Saroj (M Phil, Social Work); Neeraj Kumar (PhD, Gandhi and Peace Studies); Rajesh Sarthi; Rajneesh Ambedkar (Women's Studies Department); Pankaj Vela (M Phil, Gandhi and Peace Studies); and, Vaibhav Pimpalkar (Diploma, Women's Studies Department).

The All India Students' Association, in a Facebook post, said Rajesh Sarthi is an AISA activist. It called for reversal of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

J&K Govt ad urges people to shed fear as Valley works out its own open-and-shutdown schedule

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

MORE THAN two months after the lockdown over the Centre's J&K move, the state administration came out with full-page advertisements in local dailies Friday, urging people not to "succumb to militants" and resume normal activities so that they can "take informed decisions on what is best for us".

Referring to "closed shops, no public transport" and asking "who benefits... why fear" when "this is our home" and "it is for



At Lal Chowk, shops open for a few hours in the morning and remain shut in protest all day. PTI

us to think of its well-being and prosperity", the advertisement stated: "Are we going to succumb to militants? Think!!! For

over 70 years now, the people of J&K have been misled. They have been victims of a vicious campaign and motivated

propaganda that has kept them trapped in an endless cycle of terrorism, violence, destruction and poverty."

"While separatists sent their children to exotic lands to study, work and earn, they instigated the common people to push their children into violence, stone-pelting and hartals. They used threats of terrorists, coercion and misinformation to beguile the people. Today, militants are using the same tactic of threats and coercion. Are we going to tolerate this?" it stated.

The Valley though remains sullen over the loss of the state's special status and the lockdown. People are adapting to a new schedule — of making a beeline to shops that open early in the

morning for a couple of hours before shutters are downed for the day as a mark of protest. In some parts of the Valley, the markets open for a few hours only in the evening.

At Lal Chowk in Srinagar, as loudspeakers of mosques fall silent after the morning prayers around 7 am, the city centre rings to the sound of shutters being raised. One by one, the shops open. And the place becomes a beehive of activity. By 9.30 am, the sound of the shutters returns. Shopkeepers simply exchange looks and, almost in unison, down the shutters. Within 15 minutes, the market is shut and traffic begins to thin out.

"We have to continue to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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WHAT DID NOBEL PEACE WINNER ABIY AHMED DO TO END ETHIOPIA-ERITREA WAR? In July 2018, Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed held Eritrean President Afwerki in a warm and tight embrace, announcing to the world, that the 20-year war that killed at least 80,000 people in two of Africa's poorest countries, had finally come to an end



VIDEO OF THE DAY THE SKY IS PINK PUBLIC REVIEW Check out what the audience said after watching the film



FULL COVERAGE MODI-XI SUMMIT IN MAHABALIPURAM LIVE PM gives Xi Mahabalipuram temple tour

EXPRESS AUDIO NBA's debut in India and the brilliance of Mohammed Shami NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY In this episode of the Express Sports podcast, we discuss NBA's debut, Mohd Shami's bowling, World Athletics Championships and listener's feedback

FROM PAGE ONE

'Corporate tax cut'

reform and partly driven by the fact that the backs are against the wall and it was kind of that we have to do something. I think this was an idea which was actually actively considered four to five years ago and rejected. I don't want to go into all the personal angles here. But looking back I realise that the taunt of suit, boot ki sarkar, that the government was vulnerable to, also made it difficult to undertake the corporate tax reform. It's this new welfareism that burnishes the pro-poor credentials that then you acquire political capital to do the more difficult reforms like corporate tax reform. There is a deeper thing going on which we can't dismiss so easily and the corporate tax reform is an example of that," Subramanian said. He also said that if UPA-2 was paralysis, Modi-I was hyperactivity. "It was hyperactivity, but with vision. That can't be a criticism," he said in his role as commentator at the lecture series titled 'India's Economy: How Did We Get Here and What Can Be Done?' "New Modi welfareism is public provision of essential goods and services: cooking gas, toilets, banks accounts, power, housing and medical insurance and now water. It is vision...political strategising plus energetic implementation and follow-up, must be acknowledged", he said. Commenting on other reform measures of GST, Subramanian said there might have been implementation challenges but those can't be termed as lack of vision. For Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, he said, it's proving to be insufficient, but the original conception cannot be faulted. "Even demonetisation cannot be accused of lack of vision," he said. Professor of finance at Chicago Booth School and former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, who was key speaker at the lecture series, however, said he disagreed with Subramanian about the measure having a vision. "I find it strange to call demonetisation as something with vision. Of course, everything has a vision behind it but the question is: is it a coherent vision? Is it a vision that takes us forward? Unfortunately, I disagree with you on it," he said. Subramanian said India's financial system has been kept alive basically through recapitalisation and now there is "twin plus twin

balance sheet" challenge, wherein there are rising NPAs once again and intensification of corporate stress. "You saw the NBFCs lending, which was basically a weakening of regulatory standards. Now, as a consequence of limited action and limited reform, the fact that growth has been slow, we have gone from twin balance sheet, which had banks and infrastructure companies, to what I will call a twin plus twin balance sheet challenge, where on the financial side the non-bank financial companies have been added to the stress and the borrowing side, it's not just big infrastructure companies but certainly real estate companies have also come into the problematic category," he said, adding that investment and growth cannot durably revive without addressing this twin plus twin challenge. Rajan, however, was more despairing. "Basically signs of deep malice, significantly lower growth and narrowing fiscal space (indicate that) India is losing its economic way. I will argue that perhaps the reason is, we are centralising power without a persuasive economic vision and if we do this we risk wasting the demographic dividend," he said. Brushing aside suggestions that slow global growth, trade and oil prices are behind the slowdown in India's GDP growth and economic activity, Rajan blamed it on sins of both "omission and commission". "There is an attempt to say that this (slowdown) is because of outside. To blame the outside is probably wrong. What probably is a better explanation is that it is a consequence of not having invested since the global financial crisis and lack of significant reform over the same period. These acts of omission, in some sense, combined with acts of commission. The sequence of demonetisation and goods and services tax, essentially was the straw, that seems to have broken Indian economy's back because it came at a time when the economy was relatively weak," said Rajan. Stating that while the country needs to enhance growth, Rajan said that investments in India have slowed down compared to its peers and that is a big cause of concern. Pointing out Subramanian's study on GDP growth that hinted at a mis-measured growth, Rajan said while pre-2011, India had substantial investment, credit

growth and rise in exports and imports but since then, what we have seen is everything has gone down except the GDP numbers. Arguing that India must open up its economy, Rajan said that India grew stronger and saw higher investment, consumption and export growth "when India became a much more open economy" and today in some sense "closing down relative to the past. On the one hand growth has been relatively slow, but the fiscal is also a source for concern". "What one would want for is slashing in some of the old regulations that hold back firms and focusing on improving the ease of doing business...There has been some attention but largely focussed on world bank indicators of ease of doing business rather than the actual conditions in india on what prevents businesses from working easily," said Rajan. Bengal killings detained for questioning - two were set free later - and sketches were being prepared from eyewitness descriptions. While police suspect personal enmity, the BJP targeted the state government on law and order while the TMC said he was a victim of BJP infighting. Party workers put up pictures of the family and videos on social media while the National Commission for Women (NCW) sent a letter to the state DGP. "Dilip Ghosh yesterday said that my cousin belonged to the 'BJP Parivar'. He is lying. He belonged to our parivar. I have seen him since childhood and apart from being my cousin, he was my best friend. Whenever we talked politics he used to walk away. Even Trinamool Congress leaders are now saying it is due to an internal feud in the BJP. They are the ruling party they should ensure that police find who hacked my cousin, his wife and the little boy to death. No one should politicise the issue," said Bandhu Krishna Ghosh (41), Pal's maternal cousin. Speaking to The Indian Express, Bengal senior RSS functionary Bidyut Roy, said: "He was in touch with us for the past four months and attended some of our programmes. He was a novice. I do not believe that he was murdered because he was in touch with us. But we condemn the murder and the guilty should be punished." Pal was raised in his maternal uncle's house in Barala village and later got a job at the Sahapur primary school in 2005. He and his mother built a house and bought over 12 cottah of land in the area and bought a second-hand car too. Pal went to school every day at 10 am and left by 7 pm. "One-and-half years ago, he took his family to Jagunj town. He said his son would get proper schooling there. You can ask anyone in this village, he never had any political association. He studied hard and later devoted time to teaching and his business," said Dulal Ghosh (64), Pal's paternal uncle. Family members also pointed fingers at the police and said there were lapses in the probe. "They are yet to bring in a forensic team. We have heard that the assailant left shoes inside the house. They did not bring in sniffer dogs either. So much time has passed, yet no arrests have been made. I had to wait for nine hours to meet the officer in charge of Jagunj police station," said Bandhu Krishna. Pal's neighbour and BJP district committee leader Manoj Sarkar said: "The family kept to themselves mostly. Bandhu Prakash only spoke to us when he was on his way to the market or school. He never spoke politics nor we did we see him associated with a political party." Sarkar is the former councillor of the area - Azamgunj municipality. Meanwhile, senior police officers claimed they were close to

On Day One, Modi and Xi talk trade, terror

were referring to the radicalisation among Uighurs in Xinjiang province. "Both leaders said they were large countries, and that radicalisation was a matter of concern to both. And that both would work together. The two leaders also discussed issues pertaining to the trade deficit and how to enhance the trade volume, and tried to identify areas of investments," Gokhale said. He said the two leaders talked about their respective "national vision" and "governance priorities". Modi told Xi that having been recently elected for a second term, he had received a renewed mandate for economic development. To this, Xi said that he was looking forward to working very closely with the Prime Minister on all issues during the next four-and-half-years. The two leaders sat on a sep-

arate round table at the dinner near the Shore temple. Modi, who was dressed in traditional Tamil attire, and Xi in an informal white shirt and black trousers, spent "quality time", sipping coconut water. The Prime Minister gave a guided tour of the seventh century majestic monuments built by the Pallava Dynasty in the seventh century - which are a UNESCO heritage site. Xi, according to Gokhale, said that he was "overwhelmed" by the hospitality while the PM spoke of the trade links between southern India and China's Fujian Province. Incidentally, Xi was Governor of Fujian province. At Arjuna's Penance, one of the monuments where they spent time, Modi was said to have explained the underlying philosophical meaning that "man and nature live in har-

mony with each other", and that this particular monument was a reflection of that. Referring to the monuments, he also said that India, like China, is also a civilization with a long history. At the Shore temple, the two leaders were joined in by the Indian delegation comprising NSA Ajit Doval, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar among others, while the Chinese delegation included Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, Politburo member Ding Xuexiang and senior leader He Lifeng. The two leaders will meet again Saturday at the Tango Hall in Taj Fisherman's Cove, which will be followed by delegation-level talks. After the discussions, Modi tweeted, "Mamallapuram is one of the most beautiful places in India, full of vibrancy. It is linked

to commerce, spirituality and is now a popular tourism centre. I am delighted that President Xi Jinping and I are spending time in this scenic place, which is also a @UNESCO heritage site." "Arjuna's Penance is one of the grandest places to see in Mamallapuram. It brings to life aspects of the Mahabharata. Arjuna's Penance also showcases the best of Pallava Art, especially the depiction of nature and animals." Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted, "Concluding a highly productive day with a pleasant conversation over a long dinner. PM @narendramodi & Chinese President Xi continued their exchange of views on deepening of the India-China partnership over a breathtaking Kalakshetra cultural performance followed by dinner."

First contraction in 2 years, IIP dips 1.1% in August

time in more than four years in by 0.5% that month. Data released by the Ministry of Statistics Friday showed that manufacturing and electricity contracted 1.2% and 0.9% respectively, while mining output remained almost flat growing at 0.1%. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee earlier this month had cut policy rates by 25 basis points and resolved to continue policy with an accommodative stance "as long as it is necessary to revive growth". The central bank also pared down its full year growth forecast to 6.1% in 2019-20 from 6.9% projected earlier. Moody's Investors Service on

Thursday projected a low 5.8% growth for India in FY20 - the lowest growth estimate issued so far by any agency for the current fiscal. According to the data, among used-based industry groups, only primary goods (1.1%), intermediate goods (7%) and consumer non-durable (4.1%) recorded positive growth and the other three sectors contracted - capital goods (-21%), infrastructure/construction goods (-4.5%) and consumer durables (-9.1%). In two-digit classification, 15 out of 23 groups contracted, with analysts pointing to the possibility of pre-stocking due

to festive demand in September and October not having taken place. Only food products and wearing apparels has shown some growth. The highest contraction was seen in motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (-23.1%), transport equipment (-13.6%), paper (-12.6%), textiles (-7.6%) among others. "IIP has been very volatile and the small momentum of couple of months fizzles out soon. Going forward, the IIP is likely to show erratic low growth trend. The policy measures announced by the government after first quarter GDP growth of 5% are more supply

side interventions and unlikely to boost demand. With no fiscal space available to the government, it is unlikely that the demand in going to return back soon. The Indian economy is presently facing a structural growth slowdown originating from declining household savings rate, and low food inflation and agricultural growth. Low agricultural growth is feeding into low agricultural and non-agricultural wage growth in rural areas, which is impacting rural demand adversely," Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist and Senior Director, Public Finance, India Ratings & Research (Fitch Group) said.

The court granted four-day police custody though the EOW had sought six days, saying they also needed to ascertain the role of co-conspirators. Godhwani and Saxena did not oppose the police remand while Shivinder told the court that he himself was a victim of the fraud and would cooperate with the investigation in every possible manner. Malvinder's lawyer Sharma told the court that he had given an affidavit in the High Court saying the money was not with him. Maintaining that his client had been cooperating, he said: "I am a defenceless and a penniless man. The agency should arrest the RSSB chief who has not even been touched." Meanwhile, the RSSB chief and his family members moved the High Court Friday, saying they do not owe any money to RHC Holdings Pvt Ltd, promoted by Malvinder and Shivinder. They filed the application following the High Court direction to deposit the amount owed to RHC Holdings Pvt Ltd in connection with the execution of the Rs 3,500-crore arbitral award to Japanese pharma major Daiichi Sankyo against Malvinder and Shivinder, former promoters of Ranbaxy Laboratories. In their application, the Dhillons told the High Court that RHC Holding had made a false claim that they owe money to the company. Following this, Justice J R Midha sought the response of RHC Holding, the Singh brothers and Daiichi. The High Court also reserved its order on whether to issue notice to the police on Malvinder's plea seeking quashing of the FIR against him by the EOW. In the court of the CMM, the EOW said allegations have been levelled by Manpreet Singh Suri of RFL against Malvinder, Shivinder, Sunil and others. "The alleged persons, having absolute control on Religare Enterprises Ltd and its subsidiaries, put RFL in poor financial condition by way of disbursing loans to companies having no financial standing and controlled by the alleged persons," it said. Valley register our protest, tell them that we bitterly oppose the revocation of Article 370, and will fight till the end. There are such curbs in the Valley that the shutdown is the only way for us to register our protest," says Abdul Rashid, a shopkeeper at Maisuma. "That we have changed our market timings is also a form of protest." Yasir Ahmad, who has a jewellery shop on Residency Road, leaves his home in the old city immediately after the morning prayers. "After finishing my prayers, I only have tea. By 6.45 am, I leave for my shop. By 7 am, my shop is open. We have adapted to this new schedule. This is the least we can do to register our protest." While most shops shut by 9.30 am, some half-shuttered shops do business an extra hour. "The word has spread and shoppers do come in the morning hours," says the owner of a garment shop at Lal Chowk. "A few hours of business is enough to keep us going." Shops in the old city, the separatist stronghold, and the up-town open and shut for the same number of hours. But in other towns of the Valley, like Sopore, Baramulla and Ganderbal, markets open only in the evening. The only exception is Srinagar's flea market. These days, under tight security, over a hundred vendors set up stalls every day under Chinara trees near the Polo Ground. Earlier, they would do that only on a Sunday. Now, it's a daily affair; allowed to showcase the "return of normalcy" in the Valley.

cracking the case. "There are a few eyewitnesses who saw one person running away from the house. The victim, apart from being a teacher, was also an agent for insurance and financial companies. He was in serious financial distress and lost money," said a police officer. According to Pal's family, Bandhu Prakash did lose money in various chain marketing systems and insurance schemes. Sarkar's brother Pankaj is among the eyewitnesses. "I heard no sound or shrieks from the house. Around noon, I saw a man running out of the house and chased him but failed to catch him. I returned and saw many people in front of Pal's house saying they had been brutally murdered," he said. Murshidabad SP Mukesh Kumar said police detained four men. "Two were let go and two more are being questioned. The CID is working closely with us. We have eyewitnesses. One person we want in the case is absconding. We are looking into the professional killer angle too," he said.

days ago, we had announced on our FB page that we were going to write a letter to the PM to protest. Some students told us that the administration was saying it cannot be done without their permission. So, on October 7, we gave them a letter. They denied permission, saying our letter did not have a date. They never mentioned anything about the code of conduct." "We decided to gather at the Gandhi Hill on the campus where there is a Gandhi statue. October 9 was also BSP founder Kanshi Ram's death anniversary, so we merged both programmes. But they locked the gates leading to the statue. When about 100 students were holding a dharna near the gate, Acting Registrar Rajeshwar Singh, Acting V-C K K Singh and Proctor Manoj Kumar came around 9 pm. They spoke to us in a rude, threatening manner. We kept saying there was nothing unconstitutional about what we were doing, and that there can be no election code of conduct on the campus. But they did not listen," he said. "Late at night, when the office remains closed, they issued this letter selectively against three Dalit and three OBC students though there were many upper caste students too in solidarity with us," Saroj said, adding "we went ahead and posted the letter to the PM on October 10".

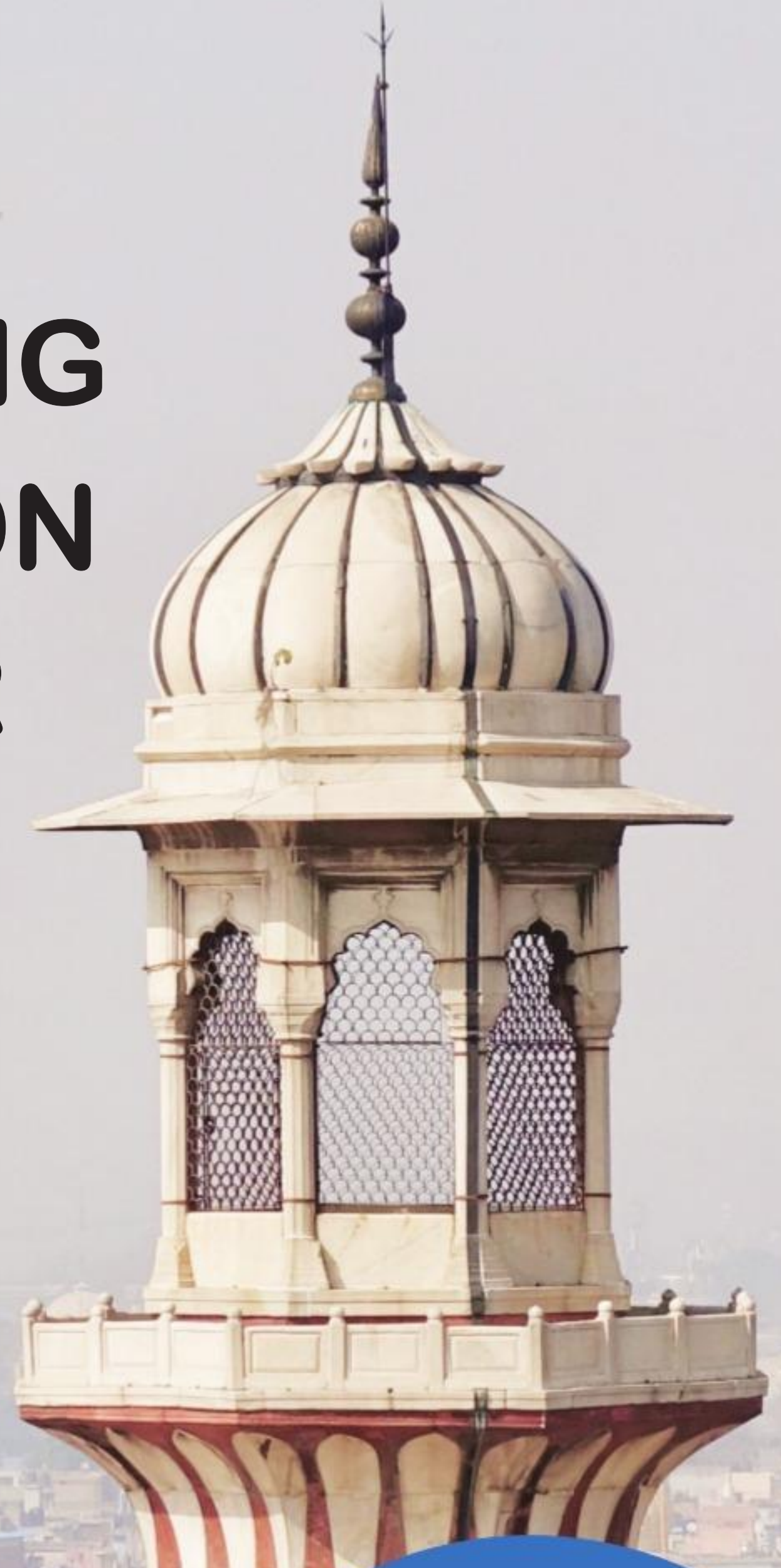
Wardha varsity university order, saying "freedom of expression of the students cannot be curtailed". Stating that women who complained of rape by BJP's Kuldeep Singh Sengar and Chinmayanand were being "brutally victimized", it went on to list issues such as Kashmir, "communal and casteist mob lynchings", the murder of Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand, the attack on Dalits in Bhima Koregaon and the demolition of a Ravidas temple in Delhi. Acting Vice-Chancellor Krishna Kumar Singh told The Indian Express: "Action was taken in view of the prohibition in force against protests in groups during the period of model code of conduct for the Maharashtra assembly election. Our letter is very clear on the matter." Chandan Saroj said "a few

Malvinder religious organisation". "This gentleman runs an entity called Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) trust. He's a very powerful man and has high political relevance," Sharma told the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Deepak Sherawat at the Saket courts complex in south Delhi. At one stage, the Singh brothers were followers of the RSSB. He said the FIR against Malvinder is an offshoot of a September 27 order of the Delhi High Court which ordered 55 entities and individuals, including RSSB chief Gurinder Singh Dhillion, his family members and various companies owned by them or by RSSB associates, to pay dues of over Rs 3,000 to the Singh brothers. "After this (High Court) order was reported two days back, my client was detained on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday and arrested before his wife and daughter, who is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ludhiana," Sharma told the court. Besides Malvinder and Shivinder, the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police Thursday arrested Sunil Godhwani, former chairman and managing director of Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL), Kavi Arora and Anil Saxena who held "important managerial positions in REL and RFL" for alleged diversion of public money "in clandestine manner for their own benefit. Noting that "the offence is of very serious nature involving huge amount of siphoning of money", CMM Sherawat ordered their police custody since it is "necessary to trace the trail of the cheated amount and find out the role of other persons who might have participated in conspiracy, and confrontation with other officials of RFL and REL". He directed that the accused be produced in court again on October 15.

Classifieds EXPRESS EDUCATION LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE BIHAR JUDICIARY MOCK INTERVIEW 2019... IS SCHEDULED ON 12th Oct. 10:00am to 4:30pm PANEL MOCK 13th Oct. 10:00am to 5:00pm REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE Contact No. - 8800660301 Email- ambitionlaw1@gmail.com New batch for IAS law optional HURRY UP LIMITED SEATS 8800662140 10th NOV. MUKHERJEE NAGAR KAROL BAGH / PUSA ROAD JUDICIAL CLAT 17 OCT. 20 OCT. 14 OCT. 16 OCT. 10 NOV. 15 OCT. 880066-0301 / 2130 / 0380 880066-2140 / 011-49841810 B-10, 1st Floor, Above Mahatashastra Bank, Mukherjee Ngr, Delhi -9 011-47532639 / 8800660301 Toll Free No. 1800-12000-2001 Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service Ph. 23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841

DELHI'S POLLUTION DOWN BY 25%

BUT STUBBLE BURNING INCREASES POLLUTION LEVELS IN NOVEMBER



हर
मुमकिन
प्रयास,
ताकि दिल्ली को
मिले हवा साफ

Dip/shabbardh/0176/19-20

STEPS TO COMBAT POLLUTION FROM STUBBLE BURNING:

1. ODD-EVEN:

Delhi Government will implement the Odd-Even rule from 4th-15th November, a time when pollution from stubble burning is at its peak.

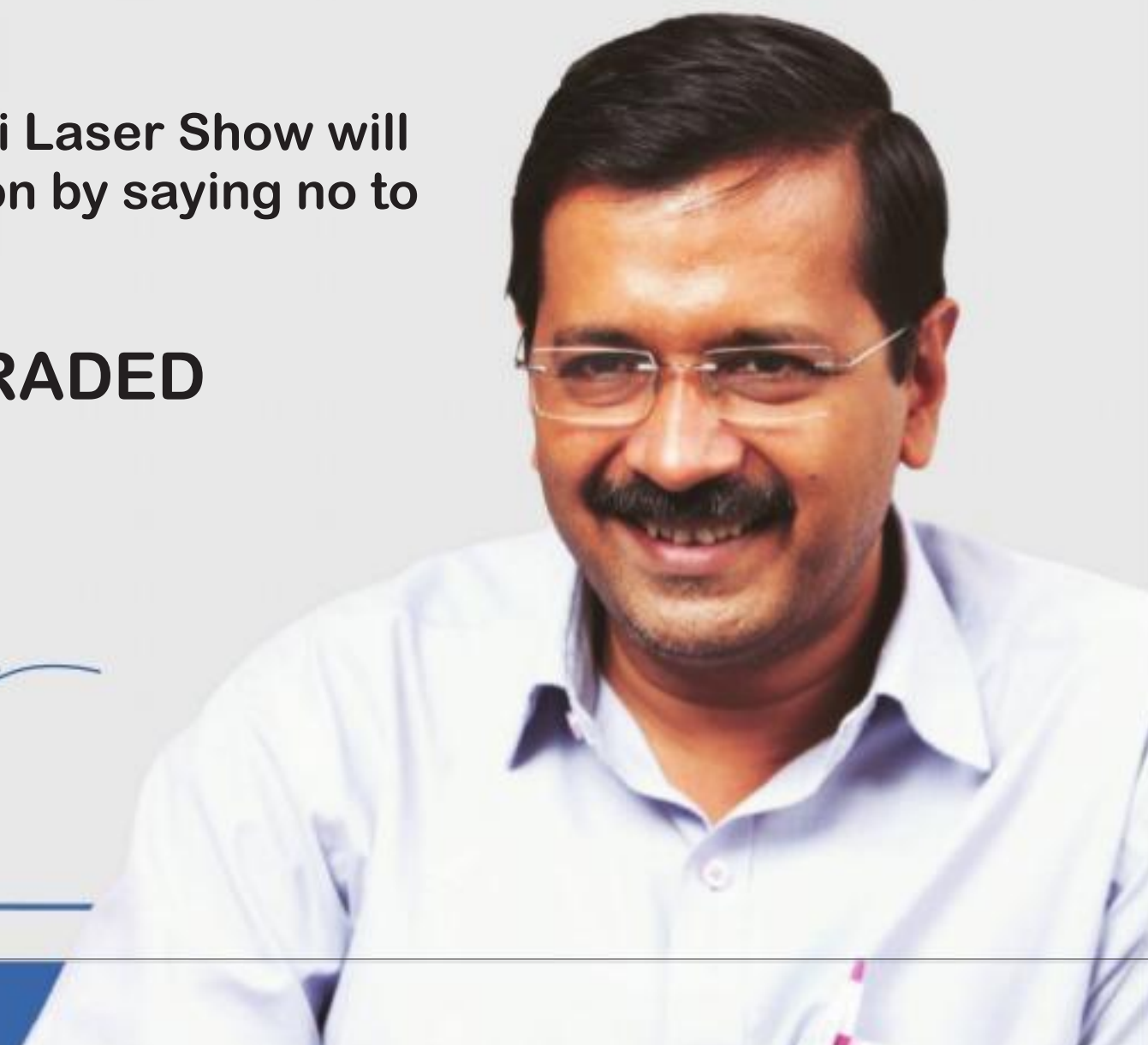
2. FREE MASKS:

Delhi government will distribute free masks as a precautionary measure. Please use them when pollution levels rise.

3. DIWALI LASER SHOW:

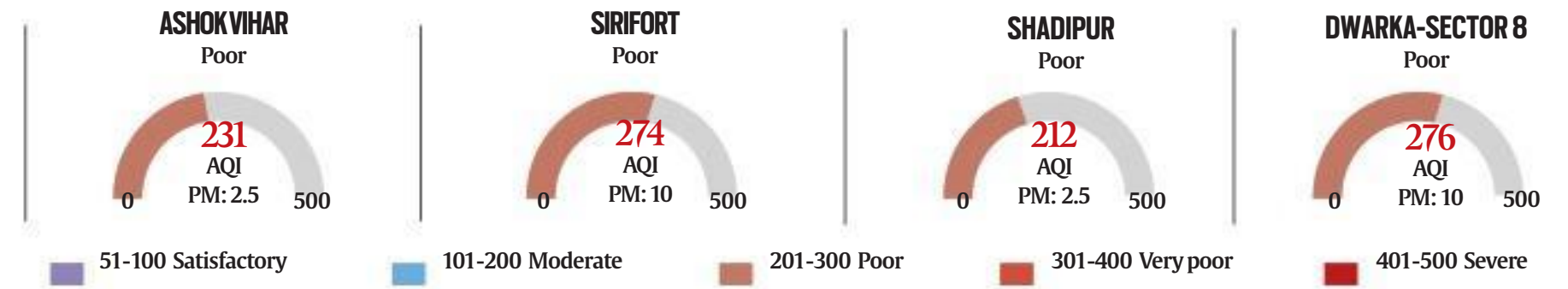
Let's come together to celebrate this auspicious occasion. A grand 4-day Diwali Laser Show will be organized at Connaught Place in Delhi. Join hands with us in fighting pollution by saying no to crackers.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT'S 'GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN'





0-50 Good



SANDEEP HAD WRITTEN TO CHACKO ON MOTHER'S DEATH

Letter on Dikshit death brings Delhi Cong's internal feud out in the open

Five senior leaders hold press conference demanding Chacko's removal, allege he leaked letter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

WITH LESS than three months to go for the Assembly elections, the Delhi Congress has plunged into a full-blown crisis with factional feud that has so far remained behind closed doors going public.

With various factions eyeing the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president's post, the war escalated to an extent that AICC in-charge P C Chacko was blamed for leaking a letter written to him by former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's son and former Lok Sabha MP Sandeep Dikshit.

In the letter, Sandeep is learnt to have written that Chacko caused mental agony to Sheila in her last days, which led to her sudden demise. On Friday, a section of the Delhi Congress leaders demanded Chacko's removal, accusing him of "leaking" the personal letter.

According to sources, Sandeep mentioned in the let-



The five leaders held a press conference Friday

ter that Chacko's decision to stay Dikshit's announcement of dissolution of 280 block level committees in June had caused her immense mental agony. Sheila had passed away on July 20.

Chacko, meanwhile, said he had received the letter from Sandeep and forwarded it to

Congress president Sonia Gandhi. He said it was sad that Sandeep was using his mother's death to play politics. Sources said the letter has now been referred to the disciplinary committee of the Congress, comprising senior party leaders A K Antony, Sushilkumar Shinde and Motilal Vora.

former Delhi minister Goswami.

Appointment delayed

The feud delayed the appointment of a new Delhi Congress chief. Sources said former BJP MP Kirti Azad, who joined the Congress in February, and former DPCC president Subhash Chopra remain frontrunners for the post. Sources said the party was close to announcing a decision Friday evening but put it on hold. Three former PCC presidents — Ajay Maken, Subhash Chopra, and Arvinder Singh Lovely — met Chacko Thursday and opposing any move to appoint Azad as the DPCC president, sources said.

Their argument was that Azad was an outsider — both to Delhi and to the Congress. Sources said another DPCC president, J P Aggarwal, too has conveyed his opposition to Azad's appointment to Chacko. The Delhi unit of the party has been working without a head ever since Sheila's death.

"He (Sandeep) sent me a letter and I have forwarded it to the Congress President. Because I felt there is nothing personal between us since everything is a political conversation," Chacko said Friday.

"This is a betrayal of faith. We were surprised to see the letter being widely discussed. He has been taking decisions on his own for the state unit. We had met Chacko earlier as well and requested him not to pass comments on Sheila ji," Walia said.

"We want Chacko ji to be immediately removed from the post of AICC Delhi in-charge and request Sonia ji to order an inquiry in the matter. The party should take necessary action against those found guilty," said

Exemptions to 2-wheelers will undermine odd-even: Transport dept opinion

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE POTENTIAL benefits from the odd-even scheme will be "lessened significantly" if two-wheelers are exempted, the Delhi Transport Department has observed, arguing against blanket waivers to scooters and motorbikes during the enforcement of the vehicle rationing drive from November 4-15.

Responding to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had sought to know if women, CNG cars and two-wheelers should be exempted from the scheme, the department suggested that two-wheelers be allowed to ply till 11 am on odd-even days and the Delhi government's office opening hours also be shifted to 11 am.

However, the exemptions to women and CNG vehicles should continue, the department has said. The Delhi Traffic Police, however, has not sent its suggestions on the exemptions so far, saying they are yet to get them vetted by the Commissioner of Police.

"The expected benefits in improving the ambient air quality in the NCT of Delhi might be lessened, perhaps significantly, if



This is the third time the odd-even scheme will be implemented in the city

carte blanche exemptions are given to all categories of two-wheelers from the restrictions to be imposed during odd-even drive," the Transport Department note, which is now being examined by Kejriwal, states.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, however, told *The Indian Express* that two-wheelers will have to be given certain exemptions as the existing transport infrastructure will not be able absorb the load. "Staggered office hours can be implemented in case of Delhi government offices. In case of private sectors, we can just issue advisories. A considered decision will be taken soon," he said.

The note, prepared after extensive deliberations within the

department, states that around 88% of Delhi's registered vehicles, which comes to around 66.5 lakh, are two-wheelers, fuelled completely by petrol and diesel.

Two-wheelers compliant with BS-IV emissions norms, which kicked in on April 1, 2017, are 12 lakh out of the total registered bikes. "It has been reported that the regulation for BS-IV compliance not only tightened the HC+NOx values (sum of Hydro Carbons and Oxides of Nitrogen) by 23-60% compared to existing BS-III standards but also specified independent NOx standards for two-wheelers," the note adds.

However, since the RC (registration certificates) of bikes do not have any mention of whether they are BS-IV compliant or not, it will not be possible to exempt them despite being less polluting, a senior official said.

Since not giving any exemption would cause inconvenience to a massive number of people dependent on two-wheelers, the department has suggested that they be exempted from the scheme till 11 am on the days the policy will be enforced. Like the previous two phases, odd-even is likely to be in place between 8 am to 8 pm every day.

BRIEFLY

2 dead after accident on expressway

Noida: Two people died after a truck, which was allegedly speeding, rammed into their stationary vehicle at the Yamuna Expressway around Thursday midnight. The victims, driver Riyaz and labourer Ved Kumar, were declared dead on arrival at the hospital while the helper, Arshad, was admitted in JP Hospital with minor injuries. The driver of the errant truck, Naresh, is currently undergoing treatment.

HC notice on missing hippo

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has issued a notice directing the Asiatic Circus to reveal the whereabouts of a nine-year-old hippopotamus, which the circus has allegedly been hiding for the last two years. After a petition was filed by PETA against the circus for keeping the animal in a small enclosure, which violates the rules of Central Zoo Authority, the animal went missing. The officials from PETA said the animal was last seen in a tiny, dirty enclosure in Dwarka.

Man run over by bus, dies

New Delhi: An unidentified man died after he came under a bus while crossing the road near Kashmere Gate Metro station around 4 pm Thursday. The driver of the bus rushed him to the hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. The bus driver is under arrest, police said.

'No trees will be cut for Central Vista project'

New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Puri said no trees will be cut for the purpose of redeveloping the Central Vista area, and that widespread public consultations will be held after a firm is decided for the project by Diwali. **ENS**

Suspects in snatching that left journalist injured held after shootout near Nizamuddin rly station

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

AT LEAST 12 rounds of gunfire were exchanged between Special Cell officers and two men near Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station early Friday morning. After the arrest of the two men, Anil Ram (26) and Arun Kumar (24), police said they were also involved in robbing an ANI journalist in CR Park last month. On September 22, the woman, Joyimala Bagchi, had suffered a jawline fracture after she was pulled out of a moving auto by the accused who attempted to snatch her phone.

Early Friday morning, a police

team of South-Western Range of the Special Cell received information that Anil will come to South Delhi with his associate to allegedly commit a robbery. "Acting on this information, a trap was laid at Barapullah flyover near Mathura Road around 4 am. After 25 minutes, police found the suspect's bike coming from the Nizamuddin railway station side. Police signalled them to stop but Anil accelerated his bike and tried to escape. The police team started chasing them and blocked the carriageway from both sides," an officer said.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Yadav said that after the men found themselves surrounded by police personnel, they opened



The accused, Anil and Arun, fired eight bullets at the police

fire. "To deter them from absconding and in self-defense, the police party also fired. One of the bullets hit Anil's right leg and one hit his right hand. A bullet also hit Arun on his right leg. Four rounds were fired by the accused, eight



rounds by the police. The injured accused were rushed to a hospital," said Yadav. A police officer said the personnel were saved by their bulletproof jackets.

Questioning revealed that the two accused were involved in

over 24 cases of robbery and snatching in South East, South West, Dwarka, Central, South, West and New Delhi. "Anil, a resident of Khanpur, is involved in cases of murder, attempt to murder, robbery, snatching and was declared a proclaimed offender in many cases by the Delhi court," a senior police officer said.

Police said both dropped out of school and began committing robberies and snatching. "Anil had his own gang and used to change the model, colour and design of the motorbike used to commit crimes frequently. In 2013, the two murdered a person in a bid to take revenge and Anil was soon arrested. But he got out on bail later," said Yadav.

Kids out of school, Pak man knocks on HC door

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

A PAKISTANI national, who claims to have migrated to India along with his family in May this year, has approached the Delhi High Court after a city government school allegedly stopped his three children from attending classes.

The issue came up for hearing before Justice Rajiv Shukdhakar, who sought to know the stand of the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) for denying them admission.

Delhi government's standing counsel, Ramesh Singh, apprised the court that the youngest child has been given admission, while his two siblings could not be ad-

mitted in view of a 2016 circular, which laid down the upper age limit for admission of students in various classes in the schools run by them.

Advocate Ashok Agarwal, appearing for Pakistani national Gulsher, who filed the plea on behalf of his son and two daughters, alleged that the action on part of the government is "unconstitutional and violative of the fundamental rights to education" guaranteed to them under the Constitution of India.

The judge asked the counsel for DoE to clarify the reasons for denying admission to the two students, who also applied for admission in different classes of Delhi Government Senior Secondary School, Bhatti Mines, Chhattarpur.

'CISF commandant called IAS officer after husband's detention'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

HOURS AFTER Delhi Police detained the husband of an IAS officer after recovering 550 grams of charas from his car, a senior commandant of the CISF posted as Director in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)'s Bureau of Security called the IAS officer, towards whom he allegedly had one-sided affection, on the pretext of offering her help, police said Friday.

The CISF commandant, who has since been arrested for allegedly planting the drugs, was produced before a Delhi court Friday and sent to three-day police custody.

Delhi Police's investigation has so far revealed that CISF senior commandant Ranjan Pratap Singh (45) first met the



The accused in police custody

IAS officer in 2000 during a four-month Foundation Course at Mussoorie in Uttarakhand. Singh is learnt to have told police that he wanted to be with the woman and was unhappy that she had married someone else. He is learnt to have told police that he was in touch with her till six months ago, when she reprimanded him for making repeated calls to her.

Police said she informed her husband and he, too, scolded

Singh, following which allegedly conspired to frame him. "He allegedly bought charas from his childhood friend around six months ago," said an officer. The woman's husband, police said, is a consultant with a Central government ministry.

On Wednesday, a DIG of the CISF received a call that a "suspicious vehicle" was parked outside the Electronics Niketan in CGO Complex, where the woman's husband works. When police found the contraband, the husband was taken to the police station.

Police said the commandant then contacted the woman officer and acted like he wanted to help her.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said raids are being conducted in Aligarh to know the source of the drug procured by the accused.



FIRE AT CHEMICAL GODOWN

A fire broke out at an open chemical godown in North East Delhi's Shastrri Park early Friday morning. A total of 16 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, officials said, adding that no one was injured in the incident.

NEW DELHI, HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN RAILWAY STATIONS SEE REVAMP

At two railway stations, wait in AC room for Rs 10 per hour



The waiting rooms, both air-conditioned and sleeper, have improved security, along with food and beverage counters and staff to guide passengers. Prem Nath Pandey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

PASSENGER WAITING rooms at the New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations have been given a make-over, with the addition of new amenities and fresh interiors.

Upgraded under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, the revamp is an initiative of the Commercial Department of Northern Railways' Delhi division, and has cost over Rs 4 crore for the New Delhi and nearly Rs 2 crore for the Nizamuddin stations.

Railway officials said the waiting rooms earlier had several problems, including overcrowding and lack of facilities.

"AC waiting rooms encountered rampant unauthorised entry and elongated usage by passengers. Overcrowding led to inadequate cooling, and available assets were always stretched to the limit," a Northern Railway official said.

"Non-AC waiting rooms, being largely unmanned, were never preferred. Due to the poor ventilation, lighting and ambience inside, passengers preferred waiting on platforms," the official added.

The new waiting rooms, both air-conditioned and sleeper, have improved security, in addition to food and beverage counters and staff for guiding passengers.

People using AC waiting rooms would have to pay a charge of Rs 10 per hour per person and Rs 5 for children between the ages of five and 12. Sleeper waiting rooms can be used for free.

These charges have been set for a period of five years under the PPP contract. They would be increased to Rs 20 per hour for adults and Rs 10 per hour for children for AC waiting room if

an extension of five years is granted to the contract. Sleeper waiting areas would still be free, officials said.

At the Nizamuddin railway station, Jagruti Kansara, who was travelling with five passengers from Haridwar to Pune and had an eight-hour stopover in Delhi, suggested that the AC waiting room should be free to use for two hours.

"If a private company has made these waiting rooms and wants to charge the public, they can be shifted outside. On the platform, as is our right, the government should allow passengers to use the waiting facility for

free for two hours, after which it can be charged," she said.

Railway officials said the AC rooms have a charge so that the PPP firm is able to recover the money spent on the project. "It was thought that people travelling in AC train compartments can pay Rs 10 per hour extra to use the waiting rooms. We have kept sleeper waiting rooms free of cost after considering that not all passengers may not be comfortable with paying an extra charge," an official said.

Contract for the upgradation of two waiting rooms at the Old Delhi station has also been awarded, the official said.

AFTER BEING DENIED CLEARANCE FOR COPENHAGEN SUMMIT

On video conference, CM says will set up task force to meet C40 targets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

DELHI SIGNED the 'C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration' Friday, pledging to implement a slew of clean air policies under the watch of a Special Task Force (STF) chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The Chief Minister made the announcement during a joint press conference at Copenhagen C40, which he addressed via video conferencing.

In his opening remarks, Kejriwal said that he "could not be here due to unavoidable circumstances". The Chief Minister was denied political clearance to lead an eight-member delegation to the summit in Denmark by the

Ministry of External Affairs, following which the organisers of the summit offered to let him address the meeting through video conferencing.

"We are going to form an STF in the coming days, which will be chaired by me. It will have ministers, experts and senior officers. We will monitor the implementation of measures under the C40 declaration," Kejriwal said.

Meanwhile, in an official statement, the organisers said: "The pledge unveiled today at the C40 World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen commits cities to set ambitious pollution reduction targets and implement substantive clean air policies by 2025."

If the 35 signatories to the declaration reduce annual average



He also spoke of odd-even

PM2.5 levels to WHO guidelines (10 µg/m³), the statement said, "it could avoid 40,000 deaths each year". The Central Pollution Control Board's safe standards of PM2.5 are 60 µg/m³ (microgram per cubic metre). Apart from Delhi, there are 34 other signato-

ries to the declaration, including Bengaluru, Barcelona, Los Angeles, Paris, Sydney and Washington DC.

In his speech, Kejriwal listed the measures taken in the capital since the AAP government took office in 2015, including two phases of odd-even scheme, closure of thermal power plants operating from within the city's limits and discouraging use of diesel generators.

Addressing a closed session on air quality later, Kejriwal said his government decided to implement the Odd-Even scheme despite being warned that the move may upset people and have political consequences.

"We received positive feedback from the citizens, and they

accepted it wholeheartedly... This lifted our spirits and pushed us to take several other steps," he said.

The CM also praised environmental activist Greta Thunberg for uniting people across the world on the issue of climate change.

Later, in a tweet, Kejriwal explained why he spoke in Hindi: "Language is an intrinsic part of any country's culture and identity. If we love India, it is only natural that we love its languages. Indians should also take pride in speaking in any Indian language like people of China, Japan, France do while speaking in their respective mother tongue. This doesn't mean I am against English... But when presenting India's case in global forums, we will do so in our own language with pride."

Task force's target: Bring down particulate matter 30% by 2024

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE SPECIAL Task Force on air pollution, which will be chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, will come under the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, which will double up as the nodal agency to monitor the government's clean air initiatives. The task force will tackle long-term challenges in cleaning the capital's air by coordinating with various government departments and agencies, DDC vice-chairman Jasmine Shah said.

It has set an ambitious goal of exceeding the targets set under

the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The NCAP sets the target of bringing down PM2.5 and PM10 levels by 20-30% by 2024 as compared to 2017.

Shah said the C40 declaration, though not legally binding, will help the government tap into a network of knowledge.

"The vast pool of resources and innovations found across the globe will have to be tapped into and taken into consideration while framing plans to clean Delhi's air. And for that we also need coordination among multiple departments," he said.

The task force will also create a climate transformation plan and budget. So far, members of the

panel, which will also have external experts, have not been chosen.

Apart from monitoring big ticket initiatives, such as procurement of buses and rollout of the e-vehicle policy, the STF will also take the lead in executing measures such as greening of 500 km of total 1,260 km roads coming under PWD.

The government also plans to provide a subsidy of Rs 5,000 per tandoor to restaurants to replace coal-based ovens with electric- or gas-powered ones.

"The government will also launch the Delhi Tree Challenge encouraging people to plant saplings in and around their houses," Shah said.

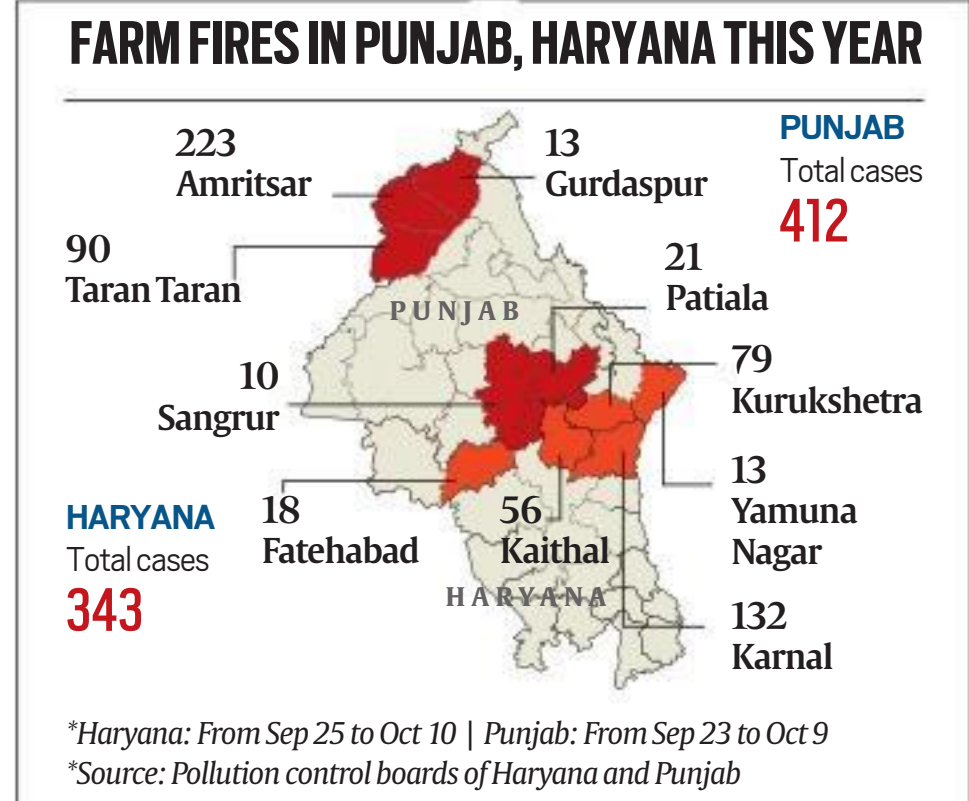
Punjab, Haryana claim farm fires not affecting Delhi's air, Gahlot says their actions not visible

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

AUTHORITIES IN Punjab and Haryana have denied that stubble burning in the two states is impacting Delhi's air quality, a claim rejected by Delhi environment minister Kailash Gahlot Friday. Weather experts, however, noted a spike in instances of farm fires in the last 24 hours.

Punjab agriculture secretary K S Pannu said a number of measures have been taken to control stubble burning in the state, including distribution of happy seeder and other machines that are alternative to stubble burning.

He said 28,000 such machines were distributed to farmers in 2018 and added that there is a demand of 25,000 machines this year, of which 10,000 have al-



paddy crops. "We don't think pollution from Punjab reaches Delhi, but it is a problem anyway and therefore these steps are required," he said.

Farmers have already started setting fire to crop residue in the state with Amritsar recording 223 active fires events till October 9, the highest in the state so far.

In Haryana, the state pollution control board's member secretary S Narayanan said the number of active fire cases between September 25 and October 10 have dropped by 116 this year as compared to last year, when 459 cases were recorded.

"This is not the cause of Delhi's air pollution," Narayanan added.

The claims were rejected by Gahlot. "Haryana and Punjab haven't taken mitigating steps. The apathy also stems from the fact that Haryana is going to poll-

None of their actions are visible on the ground," Gahlot said when asked specifically about stubble burning Friday. The average air quality index (AQI) of Delhi remained 'poor' for a second day Friday. The AQI on Friday was 216, five points higher than on Thursday.

Air quality and weather forecasting system SAFAR Friday predicted that Delhi's AQI is expected to remain in the 'poor' category Saturday, and would deteriorate to 'very poor' on Sunday and Monday. "The biomass fire counts in Punjab and Haryana have significantly increased during the past 24 hours. Such magnitude will influence Delhi's AQI," it said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD, said a light northwest wind has been carrying "stubble matter" with it since Friday, which is impacting Delhi's air quality.

ready reached farmers. Additionally, Punjab has recently deputed one additional

chief secretary or principal secretary to each of its 22 districts to monitor residue burning of

3 women arrested for robbing war veteran in Hauz Khas ATM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

EIGHT DAYS after a 76-year-old war veteran was robbed by two women inside an ATM kiosk in South Delhi's Hauz Khas, police arrested the two accused along with a third woman, who were together involved in over four cases of theft in Delhi. Police said the women — Komal (35) and Seema (25), and their accomplice Sangeeta (30), hailing from Madhya Pradesh — would often target elderly people and women.

On October 3, N K Mahajan was inside the ATM kiosk when the two women stole money from his pocket.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, "We received CCTV footage from the kiosk, which showed the two women. We

started to look for similar cases and came across one from Kotla Mubarakpur. CCTV footage of the incident showed it was the same accused."

Through their informers and their own officers, police received information about the women. "The narcotics squad found that the women were in a park in Pushp Vihar, following which a team rushed to the park and arrested them. We found that while Komal and Seema would go commit the thefts and the robberies, Sangeeta would stand guard," said Thakur.

During questioning, the accused women told police that they would come to Delhi and stay with their relatives. During the day, they would go to busy markets, ATM kiosks, banks and crowded places to target women and elderly people.

34-yr-old shot dead inside house

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was shot dead by two other men inside his house in North West Delhi's Rohini Friday. Police said the victim, Sahil Rana, sustained two bullet injuries as he was sleeping in his room at 2 am. Rana, an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) graduate, lived with his grandparents in Kanjhawala.

Police said they have identified the accused and suspect the motive behind the murder was personal enmity. "Rana was rushed to a nearby hospital, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival. The men had scaled the wall outside his house and broke in late at night. They entered Sahil's room, shot him in his chest and face, and fled," said S D Mishra, DCP (Rohini).

Police have recovered CCTV footage from the area. Rana worked as a trader and had recently met the accused persons, police said, adding that they have been involved in other cases of theft and violence.

App to help girls pursue science

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

IN COLLABORATION with Ernst & Young (EY), the Delhi government launched the STEM Tribe app for girls at GBSS School in Shakti Nagar Friday. With games, activities and content by research leaders like NASA and Stanford University, the app aims to encourage girls towards choosing STEM-related careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and develop know-how in applied-science topics.

In Phase 1 of its launch, the STEM Tribe app will target 1,000 girls studying in Classes XI and XII in the science stream. It would then be launched in Seattle and Atlanta in the US.

Shailendra Sharma, principal advisor to Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia, said, "October 11 is celebrated as International Girl Child Day... In Delhi government schools, 57% of the students are girls. However, only 43% of them are in the science stream."

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

ECHS desires to engage following staff on contractual basis & creating a reserve panel for ECHS Polyclinic Khanpur, Air Force Station Tughlakabad New Delhi as per the following details:-

Sl No.	Appointment	Basic Qualification	Vacancy	Work Experience	Desirable attribute	Age Limit	Reservation for Ex-servicemen	Contractual Fee (per month)	Place Date & time of Interview
01	Pharmacist	(i) B Pharma from a recognised Institution or Approved Diploma in Pharmacy	01	Minimum 03 years experience	Any diploma/course in specialist pharmacy	53 Yrs	70%	Rs28,100/-	ECHS Polyclinic at 1000 Hrs on 24 Oct 19.

Note: For the above posts application to be submitted by 23 Oct 19 at the address mentioned in Gen Inst Sl. No. 06

General Instruction:-

- Contractual Remuneration:** Contractual fee as per above mentioned vacancies shown against each. The contractual employees will not be entitled, any allowances / financial benefits or concessions as admissible to Govt. employees.
- Contractual Terms and Conditions:-** The contractual employment will be for a period of two years wherein the second extension is granted based on satisfactory performance in the first year. The detailed terms and conditions for employment will be available with ECHS Cell Station Headquarters. The services of the staff are also terminated before expiry of the contractual period by either side after giving 30 days notice. ECHS will be at liberty to terminate the contract of the staff with immediate effect by paying the contractual remuneration of one month in lieu of 30 days notice period in the circumstances warrant so. The selection is purely contractual in nature and does not confer any right for regularization and permanent absorption.
- Working Hours:** The working hours for the staff would be 48 hours per week (8x6) from Monday to Saturday.
- Leave:** The staff will be entitled for leave @ 2.5 days for every completed month during the contractual period which will lapse, if accumulated at the end of six months besides Sundays & Gazetted holidays.
- The applicants will report to the place, date and time of interview as indicated above along with the application Form, Medical Fitness Certificate from SMO/CMO, Original degree Certificate and experience certificate with Xerox copies. Application form will be obtained from ECHS website www.echs.gov.in. Results of the interview will be available on 15 Nov 19, 1100 Hrs at Main Guard Room Notice Board. It is subjected to approval of competent Authority and Intimated by registered post to selected candidates.
- All application to be addressed to C Adm O, Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, MB Road, New Delhi-110080 and also be dropped by hand in drop box placed at Main Guard Room of this station.

INDIAN AIR FORCE STATION MEDICARE CENTRE SUBROTO PARK NEW DELHI-10

1. Commanding Officer, Air Force Station, Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 invites application from eligible candidates for engagement as a LMO. The details are as follows:-

Name of Post	Remuneration	Place of Work	No. of Visits	Period of contract
Lady Medical Officer	Rs. 1840/- per visit	SMC, Air Force Station Subroto Park	22 visits (per month)	01 Nov 19 to 31 Oct 20

2. **Qualification criteria are as under mentioned:-**

(a) Qualification: MBBS (specialization in Pediatrics desirable) (b) Experience: Preference will be given to experienced candidate (c) Age: Upper limit 55 yrs (d) Candidate should be registered with MCI/SMC and have current professional knowledge. (e) Weightage will be given to ex-servicemen and experience of working in Armed forces hospital/ clinics.

3. Interested candidate fulfilling the qualification may apply on plain paper with a photocopy of qualification and experience certificate, bio data with mobile no., two recent passport size photographs addressed to SMO, HQ WAC (U), AF Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 by hand/post within 07 days of advertisement. Interview will be held shortly after due intimation on telephone. Commanding Officer reserves the right to accept/ reject any application without assigning any reason.

4. For further details regarding general terms and condition, duty time, charter of duties etc. please contact- SMO, HQ WAC (U), AF Subroto Park New Delhi-10. Ph. 011-25687194 Extn 7690, 7692, 7693 from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM (Monday -Friday).

DAVP 10802/11/0033/1920

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION & SHORT TERMINATION OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Moradabad Division of Northern Railway will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling of track between Laksar - Aithal, Pathri and Ikkar yard on Haridwar - Laksar section. To execute this work Moradabad Division will take suitable traffic blocks of different durations from 13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019. During this period following trains will be cancelled/partially cancelled on the dates shown against each:-

Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
14113	Aligarh Jn. - Dehradun Express	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
14114	Dehradun - Allahabad Express	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12092/91	Kathgodam - Dehradun - Kathgodam Jan Shatabdi Exp.	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12054/53	Amritsar - Haridwar Jn. - Amritsar Express	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
14717	Bikaner - Haridwar Jn. Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14718	Haridwar Jn. - Bikaner Express	15.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
19609	Udaipur City - Haridwar Jn. Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
19610	Haridwar Jn. - Udaipur City Express	15.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
24888/87	Ambala Cant Jn. - Rishikesh - Ambala Cant Jn. Exp.	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
15034/33	Ramnagar - Haridwar Jn. - Ramnagar Express	13.10.2019 to 20.10.2019
14229	Allahabad - Haridwar Jn. Express	13.10.2019 to 20.10.2019
14230	Haridwar Jn. - Allahabad Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14606	Jammu Tawi - Haridwar Jn. Express	13.10.2019 to 20.10.2019
14605	Haridwar Jn. - Jammu Tawi Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14632	Amritsar - Dehradun Express	16.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14631	Dehradun - Amritsar Express	17.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
19019	Bandra Terminus - Dehradun Express	15.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
19020	Dehradun - Bandra Terminus Express	17.10.2019 to 23.10.2019
14610	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Rishikesh Express	16.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14609	Rishikesh - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	17.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
14265	Varanasi Jn. - Dehradun Express	19.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
14266	Dehradun - Varanasi Jn. Express	20.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
14309	Ujjain Jn. - Dehradun Express	16.10.2019 to 17.10.2019
14310	Dehradun - Ujjain Jn. Express	15.10.2019 to 16.10.2019
12017/18	New Delhi - Dehradun - New Delhi Express	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12327	Howrah Jn. - Dehradun Upasana Express	15.10.2019 to 18.10.2019
12328	Dehradun - Howrah Jn. Upasana Express	16.10.2019 to 19.10.2019
14317	Indore Jn. - Dehradun Express	19.10.2019 to 20.10.2019
14318	Dehradun - Indore Jn. Express	17.10.2019 to 18.10.2019
19565	Okha - Dehradun Uttaranchal Express	on 18.10.2019
19566	Dehradun - Okha Uttaranchal Express	on 20.10.2019
22659	Kochuveli - Dehradun Superfast Express	Upto 18.10.2019
22660	Dehradun - Kochuveli Superfast Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
12369	Howrah Jn. - Haridwar Kumbha Express	16.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
12370	Dehradun - Howrah Jn. Kumbha Express	17.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
54463/64	Chandausi Jn. - Rishikesh - Chandausi Jn. Passenger	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
54341/42	Saharanpur - Dehradun - Saharanpur Passenger	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
03427	Malda Town - Haridwar Express	14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
03428	Haridwar - Malda Town Express	15.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
01701	Jabalpur - Haridwar Express	on 16.10.2019
01702	Haridwar - Jabalpur Express	on 17.10.2019
12063	Haridwar - Una Himachal Express	13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12064	Una Himachal - Haridwar Express	14.10.2019 to 23.10.2019

SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Name	Train to short Terminate at/ Originate from station	Dates (from originating station)
15005	Gorakhpur-Dehradun Express	at Najibabad Jn. 16.10.2019 to 18.10.2019
15006	Dehradun-Gorakhpur Express	from Najibabad Jn. 15.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
15001	Muzaffarpur Jn. - Dehradun Exp.	at Najibabad Jn. 14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
15002	Dehradun Jn. - Muzaffarpur Exp.	from Najibabad Jn. on 19.10.2019
19031	Ahmedabad Jn. - Haridwar Jn.	at Meerut City Jn. 12.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
19032	Haridwar Jn. - Ahmedabad Jn.	from Meerut City Jn. 13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
14712/14711	Sri Ganganagar - Haridwar Jn. - Sri Ganganagar Exp.	at/from Ambala Cantt Jn. 13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
13009	Howrah Jn. - Dehradun Exp.	at Bareilly 15.10.2019 to 20.10.2019
13010	Dehradun Jn. - Howrah Jn. Exp.	from Bareilly 17.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12171	Lokmanyatilak -Haridwar Jn. Exp.	at Hazrat Nizamuddin 14.10.2019 to 21.10.2019
12172	Haridwar Jn. - Lokmanyatilak Exp.	from Hazrat Nizamuddin 15.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
12911	Valsad Jn. - Haridwar Jn. Exp.	at Hazrat Nizamuddin on 15.10.2019
12912	Haridwar Jn. - Valsad Jn. Exp.	from Hazrat Nizamuddin on 16.10.2019
22917	Bandra Terminus-Haridwar Jn. Exp.	at Hazrat Nizamuddin on 16.10.2019
22918	Haridwar Jn.-Bandra Terminus Exp.	from Hazrat Nizamuddin on 17.10.2019
54475	Delhi - Haridwar Jn. Passenger	at Saharanpur 13.10.2019 to 22.10.2019
54476	Haridwar Jn. - Delhi Passenger	from Saharanpur 14.10.2019 to 23.10.2019
54471	Delhi - Haridwar Passenger	at Laksar Jn. Upto 21.10.2019
54472	Rishikesh - Delhi Passenger	from Laksar Jn. 13.10.2019 to 23.10.2019
12687	Madurai Jn. - Dehradun Express	at Saharanpur on 13.10.2019
12688	Dehradun - Madurai Jn. Express	from Saharanpur on 18.10.2019

Note: Train No. 12687/88 Madurai-Dehradun-Madurai Exp. will be short terminated /Originated at/from Saharanpur and link Train No. 22687/88 Madurai-Chandigarh-Madurai Exp. will run on proper route.

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, INDORE. NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER. e-Tenders are invited by IIT Indore for the following work:

Canara Bank. Corrigendum to Request For Proposal (RFP) published in Business Standard and Indian Express on 02.10.2019 for conducting Legal Due Diligence for the proposed amalgamation of Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Expression of Interest. निविदा सूचना सं. सी-4/0/एटीएम/इंडोबाई/2019 दिनांक: 10.10.2019

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, NH WORKS, ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const. Northern Railway, Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tender under single packet system for the above noted work.

ई - प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची।

verka THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. Short Term e-Tender Notice

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU TAMIL NADU STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD. The last date for receipt of tenders called for in this Notice No.9 & 10 -DO/F: 1157/2019/Dated: 04.09.2019 is extended to 16.10.2019 upto 3.00 P.M.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice No. MC-45-ERW-Solid Waste-R3 Date: 09.10.2019

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender for Overhauling of Auxiliary Motors E-tender Notice

PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing Jabalpur (An Institute of National Importance established by an act of Parliament) Dumna Airport Road, Jabalpur (MP)- 482005

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED. Tender Ref: No. IIITDMJ/P&S/2019-20/03 Dated: 11/10/2019

NAVA RAIPUR ATAL NAGAR VIKAS PRADHIKARAN. Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector-19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar Distt. Raipur- 492 002, Chhattisgarh, India

ई - प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची।

verka THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. Short Term e-Tender Notice

Alleging inaction on complaint, man sets himself on fire at police station

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

A 24-YEAR-OLD man allegedly set himself on fire at a police station in Delhi's Rohini Friday afternoon. His family claimed the reason behind the extreme step was "police inaction" over a complaint against two neighbours, who had allegedly been troubling them for a while.

on himself at the police station after speaking to the duty officer. DCP (Rohini) SD Mishra said, "Around 2 pm Friday, Arya went to the police station and stood outside the duty officer's room. He asked for head constable Sandeep, the investigating officer of a case Arya filed against two neighbours on October 8. Before the police personnel could guide him or respond to him, he set himself on fire."

rescue. He was rushed Sanjay Gandhi Memorial hospital, and then referred to Safdarjung Hospital," said Mishra. An official at Safdarjung Hospital said Arya was brought in around 5 pm and suffered 90 per cent burn injuries. Police said that on October 8, Arya had complained against his neighbours, saying that he bumped into the two men at a fair, and an altercation took place after the phone of one of the men fell on the ground.

tarily causing hurt and criminal intimidation," said Mishra. The two had not been arrested so far, said police. Arya reportedly started a Facebook Live before setting himself on fire. Mishra said, "We have heard this but we haven't come across the video or the link so far."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM, FIROZABAD. Ref. No. 1055/Nivida/32 Dated 09-10-2019

SHRI JAL NIGAM - E-tenders are invited on two bid system for Work involving the management of water testing in lab including checking of water samples, chemical and biological analysis of samples, maintenance of laboratory appliances, instruments & apparatus and report preparation & filling together with under data feeding on portals in district Firozabad.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice No. EnHM-Green-DDU-19-R2 Date: 09.10.2019

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice No. EnHM-Green-DDU-19-R2 Date: 05.10.2019

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

Inspecting electricity theft in Greater Noida village, govt staff attacked

Noida: A group of electricity officials were allegedly attacked by two men during an inspection to check power theft in Greater Noida's Mirzapur Wednesday.

Police said the inspection was being carried out by a team led by the junior engineer from the sub-station in Rabupura. The two men allegedly attacked the group and hurled abuses at them, police said. The officials alleged that the two accused even tore their papers in order to prevent them from carrying out inspection, and

warned them against coming back. An FIR has been filed for alleged assault, criminal intimidation, obstructing a government servant from discharging his duty, and other sections. Electricity officials said the inspections are part of an initiative to stop illegal connections and other forms of power theft. ENS

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE NORTH DIVISION New Delhi

Government of India Bhabha Atomic Research Centre BARC Facilities, Visakhapatnam NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED 3 RD FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY CHOWK, RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST For PMU Consultant Date Issued: 14.10.2019 P52028-004-IND: Jharkhand Urban Resilience and Livability Improvement Project (JURLIP)

9 DECISION 2019

MAHARASHTRA, HARYANA

In sugar belt of Ahmednagar, party loyalty loses out to local cooperative politics

SANDEEP ASHAR
SHIRDI, OCTOBER 11

IF PARTY hopping has been the flavour of this election season in Maharashtra, the sugar belt of Ahmednagar, also the largest district in the state, is at the centre of it.

Just ahead of Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, Sujay, son of then Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, rocked the Opposition's boat by joining the BJP and subsequently winning the Ahmednagar South seat as its candidate.

In June, Vikhe-Patil followed in his son's footsteps. The BJP gave him a Cabinet Minister rank in the Devendra Fadnavis government, notwithstanding the allegations of corruption he had levelled against it months ago.

While the defections rattled the Opposition camp, it was in line with the 'Aaya Ram Gaya Ran' culture Ahmednagar is famous for.

A land of powerful and interconnected political families and cooperative barons, Ahmednagar has often witnessed strange political alliances and defections. "Political parties and ideologies don't matter much here. It is the regional cooperative politics that counts," said political analyst Tarachand Mhaske.

Consider this. Bhausaheb Kamble, who was the Congress's candidate from Shirdi Lok Sabha seat against Shiv Sena just five months ago, is now Sena's candidate from Shirirampur Assembly seat in the region. Similarly, Vikhe-Patil's brother-in-law Rajesh Parjane, another local heavyweight, is in the fray against BJP's sitting MLA Snehlata Kolhe in Kopergaon, which borders Vikhe-Patil's constituency Shirdi.



BJP's Kopergaon MLA Snehlata Kolhe with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Housing Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil on Friday. Deepak Joshi

The Kolhes, too, are a powerful political family which has been associated with the Congress and NCP in the past. Rivals of the Vikhe-Patils in local politics, they joined the BJP ahead of the state polls in 2014. Snehlata's principal rival, NCP's Ashutosh Kale, is a third generation politician from Congress veteran Shankarrao Kale's family, members of which have contested the previous three Assembly polls against the Kolhes on a Sena ticket.

On Friday, Vikhe-Patil shared the dais with Snehlata in an election rally where Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was present, but

there was no warmth between the two sides. While Vikhe-Patil extended support to Snehlata, both he and the Chief Minister avoided speaking about Parjane's rebellion.

Meanwhile, the presence of another BJP rebel, Vijay Wahadne, has made the contest intriguing. Even the Kales are local sugar barons, and have been contesting Assembly polls against Kolhes since the 1980s, with both sides switching parties on more than one occasion.

On Friday, Vikhe-Patil recounted how he "criticised the Fadnavis government as the Opposition leader" before justifying that he

EXPLAINED E.

Changes set to change little

IN AHMEDNAGAR, the influence of local heavyweights in the cooperative sector of the region and their personal ties with the local farmers determine their political influence. Hence, changing parties and ideologies between one election and the other is likely to have little impact on their poll prospects.

joined the government "for larger public interest". Vikhe-Patil's father, veteran Congressman Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil, too, had defected from the Congress on three occasions, before returning back to the party fold. In neighbouring Akole, NCP defector Vaibhav Pichad, who won in the 2014 polls, is now the BJP's nominee.

In 2014, the BJP won five out of the 12 seats in this once Congress bastion, with the Congress and NCP winning three each, and Sena one. While the BJP-Sena alliance aims to win all 12 seats this time, sources said this seems an uphill task.

Cong manifesto in Haryana focuses on women, students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 11

THE CONGRESS Friday released its manifesto for Haryana elections, promising 75 per cent reservation for youth in private companies, 33 per cent reservation for women in government jobs and private institutions, and 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions.

Among others, the manifesto promises free rides for women in state buses, an allowance of Rs 5,100 per month for widows, disabled or unmarried women and Rs 3,100 monthly stipend to pregnant women from the third month of their pregnancy and Rs 5,000 per month till the child turns five. It also promised Rs 2,000 every month to women below the poverty line as "chulha kharch", an allowance meant to offset the "high price" of cooking gas.

"This time, there is a special focus on women in the state," party general secretary in charge of the state, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said while releasing the manifesto. State Congress chief Kumari Selja, manifesto committee in-charge Kiran Choudhry, Congress legislature party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda and former Union minister Pawan Bansal were also present.

The 22-page "sankalp patra" said loans to farmers will be waived "within 24 hours" if the party comes to power after the October 21 Assembly polls. It also promised free power for small farmers (with up to 2 acres of land-holding), rice and wheat at Rs 2 per kg for the poor, residential plots for Dalits and an unemployment allowance for graduates.

The Congress promised that if voted to power, it will bring in a "strong legislation on the subject of mob lynching and declare those who have been proved guilty in such crimes ineligible for government jobs".

"There is difference in our party and other parties. We are hero in delivering but zero in publicity. But other parties, especially the one running the government at the Centre and in several other states at present, are zero in delivering but hero in publicity," Azad said.



Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Kumari Selja release the manifesto. Jasbir Malhi

Besides women and farmers, the manifesto focuses on youth. It promises unemployed postgraduates an allowance of Rs 10,000 per month and jobless graduates Rs 7,000 per month till they get a job. It also promises annual scholarships of Rs 12,000 to students from Classes I to X and Rs 15,000 to those in Classes XI and XII if they are from a scheduled caste or extremely backward classes.

The manifesto also promises a scheduled caste commission and a minorities commission and says the "creamy layer" for OBC in quotas will be raised to an annual income of above Rs 8 lakh. At present, this is Rs 6 lakh.

wooing state government employees, the Congress promised that if it comes to power, its government will raise retirement age from 58 to 60 years. "Employees will get pay scale on the Punjab pattern and full implementation of Seventh Pay Commission with effect from January 1, 2016," Selja said.

She said that after coming to power, Congress will set up a special probe commission to inquire into the alleged scams that took place during last five years of BJP government in the state. She added that to tackle the drug menace, on the lines of Punjab government, Haryana will also have a Special Task Force.

I HEREBY DECLARE



ABHAY CHAUTALA
INLD, Ellenabad

₹66 cr

TOTAL ASSETS (self, spouse)

IMMOVABLE ₹35.7 cr | MOVABLE ₹28.8 cr

CASH ₹8,65,000

Income in 2017-18 ₹1.55 cr

Income in 2016-17 ₹1.95 cr

CRIMINAL CASES 1

ASSETS IN LAST AFFIDAVIT FILED FOR 2014 ASSEMBLY POLLS

₹43 cr



GEARING UP

EVMs and VVPAT machines brought to Nehrunagar in Pimpri ahead of the election. Rajesh Stephan

Shah slams Rahul for Congress UK chapter discussing J&K with Corbyn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 11

UNION HOME Minister and BJP president Amit Shah on Friday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his party "taking up India's internal matters with foreign leaders" a day after a delegation of the Indian Overseas Congress's UK unit met Britain's Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and discussed the situation in Kashmir.

Addressing election rallies in Chikli (Buldhana) and Karanja (Washim) areas of Maharashtra, Shah said, "Overseas Congress chief Kamal Dhaliwal, who is close to Rahul Gandhi, met Jeremy Corbyn and raised human rights issue and complained that the situation is not normal in Kashmir."

He said, "I would like to ask Rahul Gandhi, 'What does your party want to do by raising internal matter of Kashmir with foreign leaders?' In the past, former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru placed the Kashmir issue before the United Nations, (and) now we have Rahul Gandhi taking up the Kashmir issue with the UK."

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "sternly conveyed" that "no one has the right to interfere in matters of Kashmir; and



Home Minister Amit Shah at Poharadevi Temple in Washim district of Maharashtra on Friday. PTI

that every issue related to Kashmir will be decided by Indian Parliament".

On Thursday, after the meeting in London, the Congress had, in New Delhi, distanced itself from the event and condemned the Overseas Congress. Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma had said, "We are shocked by this misrepresentation and unauthorised statement... The delegation which met, or for that matter any committee or chapter of the Indian Overseas Congress, has neither the mandate nor authorisation to speak on any

matter which pertains to policies or India's domestic issues... any issue pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir are purely India's internal affairs... We disown any such claim. I am conveying this to the leader of Labour Party."

At Friday's rallies, Shah spoke about the Union government's decision to withdraw special status accorded to J&K under the Constitution and urged the people to ask Congress and NCP leaders why they opposed scrapping of Article 370. "Whose interests were they serving by retaining special status in the Valley," he asked.

He asserted that the decision has helped remove the biggest hurdle and made Kashmir an integral part of India.

Shah also assured the people that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be strictly enforced across the country to get rid of infiltrators. "2024 tak ek ek ko, chun chun kar nikaalne ka kaam karenge (by 2024, we will identify each infiltrator and drive them out)," Shah said, referring to the next elections.

The choice before the people in the Assembly polls is the Congress-NCP alliance and the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, he said and added that while the former is in politics to serve their own families, the BJP-led alliance is working for the country.

In Muslim-dominated Mewat, BJP picks 2 turncoats, 1 first-timer

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, OCTOBER 11

EYEING ITS maiden victory in three constituencies in Haryana's Muslim-dominated Mewat district, the BJP has fielded two MLAs who were elected on INLD tickets in 2014 and a 28-year-old who is the district's only woman candidate.

According to the 2011 census, 79.2 per cent of Mewat's population is Muslim, as are two of the three BJP candidates.

Nuh, Punhana and Ferozepur Jhirka constituencies have eluded the BJP since the first election in Haryana in 1967, despite the party occasionally giving tickets to candidates from the dominant community.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, despite the popularity of PM Narendra Modi in the preceding Lok Sabha polls, the BJP could not even secure the position of runner-up in the three constituencies. Its Ferozepur Jhirka candidate, Chaudhary Alam Mundeal, finished fourth, losing to INLD's Naseem Ahmed. Ahmed has since joined the BJP, and the party has pinned its hopes on the two-time MLA — he was also elected on an INLD ticket in 2009. Son of former Congress minister Shakrullah Khan, Ahmed had joined the Congress in May this year and BJP in August.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Ahmed said, "BJP was not a major force in Haryana. But after 2014, under the leadership of Manohar Lal Khattar, the party has got the tag of honest government, which has made it a strong force."

He added, "The BJP did not have an MLA in Mewat, but it worked in the district, especially on water and electricity. I want to see Mewat develop and become an industrial hub."

The BJP's candidate from Nuh, Zakir Hussain, also won the 2014 elections on an INLD ticket, and joined the BJP in June. The grandson of Mohammad Yasin Khan, who



(Clockwise from top) Zakir Hussain, Nauksham Chaudhary and Naseem Ahmed

was a Punjab MLA, and the son of former MLA and MP Tayyab Hussain, this is Hussain's third stint as MLA.

In the 2014 elections, Hussain had defeated BJP candidate Sanjay, who came third.

While campaigning, Hussain has, like Ahmed, spoken of development. "Despite Mewat not having any BJP MLA, the CM did so much for the district. That is why I decided to join the BJP. We will work for Mewat's development and take everyone forward while maintaining brotherhood," Hussain said at a jansabha on Friday.

The BJP's Punhana candidate, Nauksham Chaudhary (28), is the daughter of a retired judge and an HCS officer. She did her BA and MA from Delhi University's Miranda House, and Masters in Luxury Brand Management from Italy and in Media and Communications from London.

At a jansabha on Thursday, she said: "Support a common girl. I am a girl like you. People say girls cannot do anything, I should go back, but why should I go back when people are giving blessings? If I had to go back, why would I come here from abroad?"

About her plans for the seat, Chaudhary mentioned "good education" for girls, a university in Mewat, a de-salinisation plant and industry to provide employment.

BALLOTIN

Irani: BJP's priority to balance development and environment

Mumbai: A week after trees were felled in Mumbai's Aarey Colony to make way for a Metro car shed, Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani on Friday said "Mumbai is on the path of development" and it is the BJP's priority to ensure that development and environmental responsibilities are balanced.

Addressing mediapersons at the BJP office in Mumbai, Irani said, "I have known Devendra Fadnavis as a visionary leader and have served with him in the organisation. I wish to say that it's the utmost priority of the BJP to ensure that developmental and environmental responsibilities are balanced equally." ENS

AAP promises to re-engineer 'failed' Maharashtra

Mumbai: The AAP on Friday released its manifesto for Maharashtra Assembly polls slated for October 21 and promised to "re-engineer Maharashtra which has been reduced to a failed state". The party is contesting 24 of the 288 Assembly seats in the state.

Maharashtra AAP co-convener Kishore Mandhyan said the 32-page manifesto, titled 'Aapla Maharashtra, Ananda Maharashtra', aims to bring about a political culture without money and muscle power.

"We plan to rejuvenate infrastructure at four levels — environmental, social, socio-economic and physical infrastructure," he said. AAP leader Ruben Mascarenhas said tariff on water and electricity would be brought down like it was done in Delhi where the party is in power. PTI

'JJP has associated itself with sentiments of people in short time'

FORMER HISAR MP DUSHYANT CHAUTALA speaks to SUKHBIR SIWACH about his Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP's) chances in the Haryana Assembly elections, and bats for reservation in jobs for the youth of the state.

How is your poll campaign going on?

I got an opportunity to visit 20 Assembly constituencies as part of the poll campaign till now. In all these 20 constituencies, we are in a direct or triangular contest. It shows that the JJP has succeeded in associating itself with the sentiments of the people within a short span of time. JJP will be a key political player in this election.

Senior BJP leader Chaudhary Birender

Singh terms you an outsider.

I have already spent seven nights in the villages of this constituency. Birender Singh can't sleep outside his native village Doomarkhan. Had I been an outsider, would I have received so much love here? I am a resident of Haryana and associated with the emotions of public in all the 90 constituencies.

Your uncle and senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala has referred to the JJP as a "baccha party".

After its formation on December 9, 2018, this party will now contest 90 seats, while the 21-year-old party (INLD) could field candidates in only 83 seats. It could not even find

a candidate to contest against the Chief Minister (Manohar Lal Khattar, from the Karnal seat).

Your opponents term the split in the INLD a family dispute.

Do you think there is a property dispute between us? This is a matter of difference in ideologies.

What are biggest issues in this election?

Unemployment, law and order, crisis in the farming sector and the economy of the state are the main issues in this election. In private as well government jobs in the state, there should be 75 per cent reservation for youths of Haryana.



Dushyant Chautala while canvassing in Jind on Friday. Sukhbir Siwach

10 GOVT & POLITICS

On shores of Mahabalipuram, ironing out a sea of differences

SHUBHAJIT ROY & ARUN JANARDHANAN
MAHABALIPURAM, OCT 11

AMID THE majestic seventh century monuments of Tamil Nadu's coastal town of Mahabalipuram, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday sat down to iron out a sea of differences and take on the challenges that have plagued ties between the two countries over the past few months — from Kashmir to terrorism and from boundary disputes to the burgeoning trade deficit.

With Modi dressed in traditional Tamil Nadu attire and Xi in an informal white shirt and black trousers, the two leaders sat down for brief discussions at the picturesque Panch Rathas, sipping coconut water under the afternoon sun.

They would have had much to discuss with several sensitive issues testing the relationship, with China's critical position on the Centre's move to scrap the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. Just like the first informal summit in Wuhan took place in the backdrop of the Doklam crisis, the two leaders will meet for the second such summit in the backdrop of the Kashmir issue.

Xi, who landed at around 2 pm in Chennai, decided to drive to Mahabalipuram, while Modi flew in a chopper to reach the seaside temple town, overlooking the Bay of Bengal.

When the two leaders met for the first time in Mahabalipuram at around 5 pm, Modi took it upon himself to give a guided tour of the monuments built by the Pallava Dynasty in the seventh century — a UNESCO heritage site.

First, they met at Arjuna's Penance, and from there, they crossed Krishna's butterball, and headed to Panch Rathas before finally reaching the Shore Temple. Here, they spent almost an hour touring the monuments and sat down for about 15 minutes at the Panch Rathas where they took a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the second informal summit in Mahabalipuram on Friday. ANI

break from the sultry weather.

At the Shore temple, the two leaders formally introduced their delegations to each other — the Indian team comprising NSA Ajit Doval, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, all dressed in formal suits, while the Chinese delegation comprising Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and State Councillor Yang Jiechi dressed in informal shirts and trousers, just like Xi.

The two leaders watched a cultural performance before discussions over dinner. At the dinner, the two sides will be joined by eight members from both sides, as they are served cuisine with local flavours — including Chicken Chettinad.

The two leaders will meet again Saturday at the Tango Hall in Taj Fisherman's Cove, which will be followed by delegation-level talks. There will press statements from both sides and no joint statement or MoUs are expected.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, the Indian Embassy announced that it will further ease its e-visa policy for Chinese nationals. Effective

this month, "Chinese nationals can apply for e-tourist visa of five years validity with multiple entries. The visa fee for this 5-year multiple entry e-TV will be USD 80," stated a press release from the embassy in Beijing.

"It is anticipated that this unilateral liberalisation of e-TV for Chinese nationals will further enhance people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and encourage more Chinese tourists to choose India as a destination for tourism purposes," the release said.

Earlier, as Xi landed, he was given a red carpet welcome at the airport on his arrival and received by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister K Palaniswami, Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and Tamil Nadu Speaker P Dhanapal.

About 500 Tamil folk artistes rendered performances including "tappattam," and "poi kal kuthirai" while a group of colourfully dressed women presented a Bharatanatyam programme to the accompaniment of 'thavil' and 'nadaswaram' (traditional percussion and wind instruments re-

spectively) music.

A smiling Xi waved at the artistes as he paused briefly before moving on a slow pace. Temple priests with traditional honours greeted him before he boarded his car. As he left the venue, the Chinese leader was greeted by school children lining the road, who waved Chinese and Indian flags.

At a number of locations along the East Coast Road, artistes rendered folk performances and played traditional music to welcome the Chinese President — security agencies had identified 34 spots where the public and folk artists teams could gather.

On Twitter, Modi said: "Landed in Chennai. I am happy to be in the great land of Tamil Nadu, known for its wonderful culture and hospitality... It is gladdening that Tamil Nadu will host President Xi Jinping. May this Informal Summit further strengthen ties between India and China."

Earlier in the day, Police detained over 50 Tibetan youth ahead of the summit, including a dozen Friday for organising protests.

Govt plans new ration cards only after duplicates are weeded out

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

AFTER LINKING ration cards with Aadhaar numbers to check bogus entries, the Narendra Modi government is working on a system to ensure that new ration cards are issued only after a national-level "de-duplication" check.

This initiative, taken by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, is aimed at reducing corruption in the public distribution system.

"Once the proposed system becomes operational, new ration cards will be issued only after the national level de-duplication check is done. At present, the de-duplication check is being done in some states within their jurisdiction. We are planning to implement this at the national level by next year," said Ravikant, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution.

"We have asked states to share ration card data. Some of them have already shared desired details. We will aggregate this data into a national level database. It is expected to be done within a year. Once this is done, each new application of ration card will have to pass through the de-duplication process. New ration cards will be Aadhaar-verified and the proposed process will ensure that there is no existing ration card in the name and address of new applicant," he told *The Indian Express*.

This move is important because earlier the government's focus was on weeding out bogus rations by linking them with Aadhaar of the beneficiaries. There are around 23.30 crore ration cards in the country of which 85 per cent have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers of the beneficiaries.

According to the Ministry, as an outcome of digitisation, a total

EXPLAINED
E May raise questions on data privacy, federal rights

THE NATIONAL database of ration cards will contribute to the plan of achieving the goal of 'One Nation, One Ration Card'. However, it may invite reservations on the data privacy front. Additionally, how this data centralisation stacks up with states' federal rights in administration of the national food security law is for the states to decide.

of 2.98 crore ration cards were deleted or cancelled by State and Union Territories between 2013 and 2018. This resulted in reducing leakage and diversion in PDS.

At present, 75 per cent of rural and 50 per cent of urban population is covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013. Based on this ratio, the accepted number of persons who are eligible to get subsidised food grains under NFSA is 81.35 crore. Of this, 79.66 crore have been identified as beneficiaries as on September 3, 2019. There are still 1.69 crore people who need to avail of the benefits of NFSA and get new ration cards.

Under NFSA, there are two beneficiary categories; families covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) entitled to get 35 kg food grains per month and Priority Households eligible to get 5 kg food grain per person per month. Announcing 'One Nation, One Ration Card,' the government has set a target of nationwide portability of ration-card holders to receive subsidised foodgrains under NFSA from anywhere in the country by June 1, 2020.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



JOINING AGAIN

HAVING DECIDED to rejoin the Congress, Delhi MLA Alka Lamba had a couple of meetings with Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the last one month or so. At 3 pm on Friday, Lamba announced at AICC headquarters that she would formally re-join the party. The party, as also AICC in-charge of Delhi P C Chacko, had no clue. Lamba tweeted the joining time and venue and sent a voice message to her supporters asking them to turn up at AICC headquarters. Perhaps realising that the grand old party has its own way of functioning, she then sent another message saying the joining has been postponed to Saturday.

CULTURAL POINT

THE CHIEF guest at an event at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, while releasing its book on Our Indian Constitution, displayed a copy — handwritten — of the original version of the Constitution. The page on Fundamental Rights had a picture of Ram, the page on Directive Principles had an image of Krishna, while other pages had Mahavir and Buddha. But there was no picture of Babur or Aurangzeb, Prasad pointed out. According to him, if it had been written now, critics would have said there was an attempt to create Hindu Rashtra. But, he insisted, it reflected the composite culture of India.

ANOTHER HONOUR

VICE-PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu has received the Order of Green Crescent, the highest civilian award of Comoros, an African island nation. It was presented to Naidu by Comoros President Azali Assamouni in Moroni. This is his second international honour since Naidu became Vice-President in 2017. In March this year, United Nations Peace University, Costa Rica, conferred an honorary doctorate on him for his contribution to sustainable development as minister of urban development and rule of law. During talks with the Comoros President, Naidu said changes regarding J&K is an internal matter and makes no difference to boundaries. Assamouni said that Comoros trusts India on J&K as India inherited the wisdom and principles of Gandhi.

Rahul pleads not guilty of defaming Amit Shah, gets bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 11

A LOCAL court in Ahmedabad on Friday granted bail to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who pleaded not guilty in a criminal defamation case filed by a Gujarat BJP leader for calling party president Amit Shah a "murder accused" in the run-up to this summer's Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul on Friday appeared before the magistrate court in two criminal defamation suits. He had been granted bail in the other case on July 12.

In the second case, he has sought permanent exemption from appearance, which will be heard on December 7.

The court issued a bailable warrant against senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala after rejecting his plea seeking exemption from appearance, and for his failure to appear in person on Friday on the ground that he is contesting Assembly election in Haryana.

Surejewala's counsel Iqbal



Rahul Gandhi at a court in Ahmedabad Friday. Javed Raja

Shaikh sought a stay, which was not granted. Surjewala will now have to appear on December 18.

Rahul first appeared in the packed seventh-floor courtroom of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) R B Etaliya in the criminal defamation case filed by Krishnavadan Brahmhatt, a local BJP leader, in May. The complaint stated that addressing an election rally in

Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, in April, Rahul had allegedly said, "Murder accused, BJP chief Amit Shah, wah, kya shaan hai."

The complaint stated that the allegation is not only "defamatory but also false, because Amit Shah had been discharged honourably by CBI court in January 2015" in the alleged fake encounter of Sohrabuddin Sheikh.

The court granted bail against a surety of Rs 10,000. Leader of Opposition in Gujarat Assembly Paresh Dhanani served as the guarantor.

Minutes later, Rahul arrived in the court of ACMM N B Munshi in another criminal defamation case, filed against Rahul and Surjewala by Ahmedabad District Cooperative (ADC) Bank and its chairman Ajay Patel.

Rahul, who pleaded not guilty, was granted bail in this case on July 12 against a surety amount of Rs 15,000. But he was required to be present at the next hearing, failing which he would have had forfeited his surety amount.

Farm loans not waived fully: Scindia

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 11

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday caused a flutter in Madhya Pradesh politics by reminding the Kamal Nath-led government that its promise of a farm loan waiver was not fulfilled yet.

Addressing party workers in Bhind, Scindia said, "You had promised to waive farm loans of up to Rs 2 lakh. But loans of up to only Rs 50,000 have been waived. Loans of up to Rs 2 lakh should be waived."

His comments come on the heels of remarks by former chief minister Digvijaya Singh's younger brother Laxman Singh, who recently said that then Congress president Rahul Gandhi should apologise for

making the "impossible promise of waiving farm loans within 10 days".

"You can't keep the voters guessing. Even the banks are not sure when will they get money and are charging interest," Singh had said.

The farm loan waiver was one of the main planks of the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections last year. Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly said that he would change the chief minister within 10 days if the waiver promise was not fulfilled.

This is not the first time Scindia has taken a shot at the government. Last month, he threw his weight behind Forests Minister Umang Singhar, who had accused Digvijaya Singh of interfering in the government. "We have toiled for 15 years to

form a Congress government. It's not even six months. The government should work to fulfill people's aspirations and brook no outside interference," he had said.

While Chief Minister Kamal Nath has not engaged with Scindia directly, party leaders said the CM had made it clear that in the first phase of the waiver scheme, loans of up to Rs 50,000 had been waived and that the remaining loans would be waived in two more phases.

Scindia's comments on Friday incited a reaction from the Opposition BJP. "Neither Shivraj, nor people. It's your (Congress) own people who are showing the mirror to you. Farmers' tears have dried but they haven't received money in their accounts," said former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

INX MEDIA CASE

ED seeks Chidambaram's custodial interrogation

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Friday moved a Delhi Special Court, seeking the custodial interrogation of former Union minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media money laundering case. The agency's move comes before his judicial remand in the corruption case runs out on October 17.

On the ED's application, special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar issued a production warrant against Chidambaram (74) and directed the Tihar jail authorities to produce him before it on October 14 at 3 pm.

Probing corruption charges in the INX Media case, the CBI arrested Chidambaram on August 21. The next day, he was remanded in CBI custody. Later, on September 5, he was sent to judicial custody in Tihar jail, which was extended from time to time and is set to expire on October 17.

The ED has sought Chidambaram's custody on the ground that he is required to seek information about some overseas shell companies and 17 bank accounts.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court on Friday issued a notice to Chidambaram and his son Karti on the ED's plea challenging the anticipatory bail granted to them in the Aircel-Maxis case.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait also sought a response from Chidambaram and Karti on the agency's plea seeking cancellation of their anticipatory bail, granted by the special judge on September 5.

The judge said that he will hear the ED's petition against the anticipatory bail to Chidambaram and his son, along with their appeal against discharge of DMK leader Dayanidhi Maran, Kalanidhi Maran and others in the cases filed by the CBI and the ED in the Aircel-Maxis case, on November 29.

ODISHA

Ahead of Bijepur bypoll, BJP, Cong face factional feuds

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 11

WITH THE bypolls to the Bijepur Assembly seat in Odisha around the corner, the BJP and Congress are staring at open factional fights among party leaders.

The bypoll was necessitated as Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who won from two constituencies in the April Assembly polls, decided to vacate Bijepur and retain his Hinjili seat.

A Congress bastion till 2018, BJD won the seat after the death of then MLA Subal Sahu. The BJD fielded Subal's wife Rita Sahu as its candidate, and she defeated BJP's Ashok Panigrahi.

BJP has said that the voters of Bijepur will punish BJD for Naveen's vacating the seat. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan campaigned in Bijepur on Friday, with top western Odisha leaders like MPs Basanta Panda, Suresh Pujari, and K V Singh Deo accompanying him.

"Who was elected from here?" asked Pradhan referring to the CM. "You could have left Hinjili and represented Bijepur. Was it wrong for people here to trust

you?" However, a factional fight is threatening the party's strategy - BJP's Panigrahi openly expressed his dissatisfaction after the party nominated Sanath Gadia as its candidate. "The party is ignoring me and is not giving me any responsibility. The same happened in (the Assembly polls in April). I don't think the party trusts me. I am confused."

He also pointed at Damodar Rout, a veteran BJD leader who joined BJP and later claimed he was not given much attention after the Assembly elections.

The Congress is caught in the same trap - its leader Ripunath Seth, who was reportedly lobbying for himself for his son to be the party's Bijepur candidate, lashed out at eventual nominee Dilip Panda. "I will campaign for Congress. Who is Dilip Panda? We will speak for the party," he said.

State Congress president Niranjan Patnaik tried to pacify all those involved, telling the media, "This (Seth's statement) is interpreted wrongly. Media is wrongly propagating news. Responsibilities have been distributed zone wise, but Ripunath Seth cannot be confined to any zone."

Pioneer of Chipko movement gets Indira Gandhi award

New Delhi: Pioneer of the Chipko movement, Chandi Prasad Bhatt, was awarded the Indira Gandhi award for National Integration on Friday. The award was instituted by the Congress in memory of the late prime minister.

Bhatt has been awarded the award for the years 2017 and 2018 for his "services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country," the party said in a statement. The award consists of a citation and a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh.

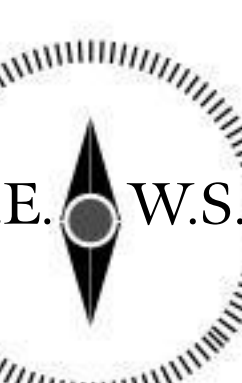
Bhatt (85), who hails from



Chandi Prasad Bhatt

Uttarakhand, had founded the cooperative organisation Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh and led the first Chipko movement near the village of Mandal in 1973. He is also a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership. ENS

EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Commercial ops start in Hindon with flight to Pithoragarh

Ghaziabad/Dehradun: The first commercial flight from the Hindon civil airport, operated on Friday when a nine-seater plane took off for Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Operations were launched by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat at the Hindon airport. A Heritage Aviation

aircraft with nine passengers on board took off from Naini-Saini airport in Pithoragarh and returned from Hindon. The service will be available six days a week. It will arrive at the Hindon airport at 12:30 PM, while it will depart for Pithoragarh at 1:00 PM. The fare from Pithoragarh to Hindon is Rs 2,470. **PTI**

EAST

Assam pipeline burst: Search on for four trapped staff

Guwahati: Five days after a pipeline burst at the Kopili Hydro Electric Plant, flooding vast stretches of the project in Assam's Dima Hasao district, the four feared-dead employees trapped inside the plant are yet to be rescued, officials said on Friday. The pipeline, carrying around 12,000 litres of water per second from a reservoir to the 275 MW hydel project, burst

on Monday morning leading to flooding of large parts of the plant. The four officials remained untraced till Friday evening. "We are trying our best to divert the entry of water and rescue team can move in only when that happens...we are working day and night," NEEPCO general manager, Debotosh Bhattacharjee, told *The Indian Express*. **ENS**

WEST

Woman arrested for attempting to kidnap toddler

Thane: A 44-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly attempting to kidnap a toddler at Dombivili in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Friday. According to the police, the accused, Kalpana Thorat, spotted a one-year-old baby girl playing with a relative inside a house. When the baby was left unattended for a couple of minutes, Thorat

picked her up and walked away. She was soon cornered by some neighbours when leaving the premises and handed over to the police, an official said. Thorat confessed she had tried to kidnap the baby for begging, he said. An offence under sections 363 and 511 of the IPC has been registered against the accused at the Dombivili police station. **PTI**

SOUTH

Kerala women's panel seeks report on teen burnt alive

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Women's Commission on Friday sought a detailed report from the police on the death of a 17-year-old girl after she was allegedly set ablaze by a man, who also succumbed to burn injuries in Kochi a day earlier. Panel chairperson M C Josephine said, "We have sought a detailed report from the police. The case was

taken up on the basis of media reports." The accused, who professed love for the victim, allegedly committed the crime after she spurned his proposal. He also died after being engulfed by the fire, police had said. He had poured petrol on the Class XII student and set her on fire, police said, adding they suspect he embraced the girl after setting her ablaze. **PTI**

Pak trying to push in infiltrators to keep J&K in turmoil: Army

ARUNSHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 11

NORTHERN ARMY Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh said on Friday that although the situation in Kashmir has considerably improved after the scrapping of special status, it remains fragile due to continued attempts by Pakistan to push in militants.



Lt Gen Ranbir Singh

"Ever since the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, there has been a significant improvement in all the violence parameters in Jammu and Kashmir... there has been reduction in terrorist-initiated incidents, stone-pelting incidents and there has also been a reduction in protests that were carried out by large number of crowds coming out," he told mediapersons at the opening of a youth festival in Doda district's Baderwah town.

"...but the situation remains fragile because Pakistan continues attempts to push in infiltrators so they can keep Jammu and Kashmir in a state of turmoil," he said, adding, "we are duty-bound, prepared and fully equipped to ensure their designs are not allowed to succeed."

Terrorist training camps are still active across the border and Pakistan is trying to provide them all kinds of support, including weapons, he said, adding that the recent air-dropping of weapons in Punjab with the help of drones was a step in that di-

rection. He assured that the Army was competent and fully prepared to foil all such designs. To a question about infiltration by Afghan militants, he said that though some reports have appeared in the media, there has been no corroboration on the ground. The Army's multi-tier counter-infiltration mechanism along the Line of Control (LoC) is strong and fully competent to check any sort of infiltration, he said, adding that if any infiltrator succeeds in sneaking in, he would get killed as the Army also has a counter-terrorism grid in the hinterland.

Referring to reports regarding infiltration by terrorists into J&K, the Northern Army Commander said that "as far as our counter-infiltration grid is concerned, we are able to thwart infiltration bids at the LoC itself". Pointing out that if infiltrators do not get caught at the first tier, they possibly get trapped in the next tiers.

SOLDIER KILLED IN CEASEFIRE VIOLATION

Jammu: An Army man was killed in Rajouri district on Friday as Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing along the LoC in Nowshera sector. Sources said that the ceasefire violation from across the border came around 5.50 am. During the exchange of fire, Naik Subhash Thapa sustained injuries. He was evacuated to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries. **ENS**

In response to a question, he said that there were 200-300 militants active in the state. About their number across the LoC, he said that nearly 500 are at training camps and launch pads at any given time, waiting to infiltrate. However, these are approximate figures and keep on changing, depending upon the number of new militants trained and the de-radicalisation of some of them, he said.

Asked whether another surgical strike was needed in view of terror training camps and launch pads, he said a surgical strike is one of the options available. "Which option is to be exercised, at what time, will depend on the situation and the manner in which we would like to keep surprise and we are able to achieve sure-shot success..."

Sharp spike in ceasefire violations by Pak this year

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE NUMBER of ceasefire violations by Pakistan in July, August and September this year is more than combined violations in these three months for the last two years, Army sources said Friday. In 2019, there have been 296 ceasefire violations in July, 307 in August and 292 in September. There were 68 violations in July in 2017 and 13 in 2018, 108 violations in August in 2017 and 44 in 2018, and for September 2017 and 2018, the figures stood at 101 and 102, respectively.

There have been a total of 2,216 ceasefire violations from January till September 30 this year and the region south of Pir Panjal has been heavily targeted, sources said, with Nowshera and Poonch witnessing the maximum violations with 820 and 744 instances, respectively.

Sources mentioned that between August and September, the total number of agitations across the Valley have come down by more than half. Terrorist activity has also slowed down compared to 2018, Army sources added.

Stay in Srinagar till transition takes place: J&K to its secys

Order comes ahead of 'darbar move'

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 11

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has asked all administrative secretaries to remain in Srinagar on the "appointed day" - October 31 - when the state's bifurcation into two Union Territories comes into effect. Government officials have said the move is aimed at ensuring a smooth transition.

At least six departments - Home, General Administration, Planning, Finance, IT and Ladakh Affairs - will remain operational from Srinagar until further orders. Sources said the swearing-in ceremonies for the Lt Governor, Chief Justice of J&K High Court and Advocate General will take place in Srinagar for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, followed by the ceremonies in Leh for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The order, issued by the state's General Administration Department on Friday, comes ahead of the 'darbar move' scheduled to take place in two weeks. Darbar move is the traditional move of the J&K government from Kashmir to Jammu for the winter and from Jammu

to Kashmir in the spring. "It is impressed upon all administrative secretaries that they shall not move outside the state during the transit days of annual darbar move in October-November 2019," the order said.

The state has also asked all state service employees to give preferences for their allocation to the newly-created Union territories. Quoting section 89(2) of J&K Re-organisation Act, another government order states that "the state government hereby seeks options from employees who are serving substantive basis in connection with the affairs of the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir for their further allocation to the successor UTs of J&K and Ladakh".

All departments functioning under the state have been asked to ensure that every employee provides the required information to the head of the department concerned after due verification.

However, the order states that while preference indicated by the employee will be taken into account while deciding on allocation, "it shall not be obligatory on the government to allocate the employee to the UT of his/her choice".

4 WOMEN, 3 CHILDREN DIE IN BULANDSHAHR MISHAP

Sleeping on pavement on way home from Vaishno Devi trip, seven run over by bus

SUKRITA BARUAH
BULANDSHAHR, OCTOBER 11

RETURNING HOME after a pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi in Jammu, seven members of two families - four women and three children - from Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, died as a bus crushed them while they were sleeping on the pavement on Friday at Narora, a riverside town in Bulandshahr district.



Relatives of the pilgrims who were run over by a bus in Bulandshahr on Friday. Amit Mehra

The bus, carrying pilgrims returning from Haridwar, has been impounded while its driver is absconding, the police said.

Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh said, "We received information that a bus with Aligarh registration had run over pilgrims in Narora around 4 am. The women and children were sleeping on the pavement. The bus came from Sambal area, allegedly at great speed, and ran over them."

A case of rash driving and negligence has been filed against the bus driver at Narora police station.

The seven deceased were part of a group of around 60 who had left in a bus from Hathras on October 3 for the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. According to the family members, they stopped at Narora on the last night of the journey to rest for the night and bathe in the Ganga - the riverbank is barely

200 metres from the accident site - the following morning before heading to Hathras.

Udayvir Singh, 36, who lost five family members - his mother, wife, daughter, sister and niece - said they made the journey to Vaishno Devi for the 'mundan' ceremony of his three-year-old daughter Kalpana, the youngest casualty of the incident.

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE

Forest officers use drones, elephants, camera traps to catch 'man-eater'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 11

THE KARNATAKA forest department has deployed drone cameras, six elephants and nearly 140 camera traps to find a tiger that is suspected to have killed two farmers - in early September and on October 8 - on the fringes of Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.

The search was launched after a farmer, Shivalingappa, was killed on October 8 near his property in Chowdahalli area on the forest's fringe. Last month's suspected fatal tiger attack was reported near Hundipura village in the area where multiple tiger sightings have been reported by local residents in the last six months.

After the incident in September, Forest Department officials said they had combed the region but the animal remained elusive. An official said, "They (local residents) want us to catch or kill the tiger - they want results. They say the fresh incident occurred, given our failure to catch it last month." The Forest Department had earlier enlisted services of three elephants to comb the region. They added three more elephants in their renewed effort. The department has also formed five combing

groups comprising staff from the tiger reserve. Each group will be headed by a range forest officer. Based on the animal's recent sightings, officials said they have identified five possible hiding spots.

Narayan Setti, a farmer in Hundipura, said, "There is a danger of tiger attack if we go to our field to graze the cattle. We are accustomed to seeing elephants in this region but over the last six months, there have been many tiger sightings. We have been here for 30 years; we have to bring our cattle out of the farms to graze."

Bandipur Tiger Reserve field director T Balachandra said the stripe profile of the tiger was obtained from camera traps and a DNA profiling was being carried out to ascertain the animal involved.

Sharpshooter father-son duo Shafat Ali Khan and Asghar Ali, who were involved in shooting the tigress Avni in Maharashtra's Yavatmal last year and who own a property close to Bandipur reserve, have offered to track the tiger but forest officials and wildlife enthusiasts have turned down the offer, local wildlife activists said.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT
Dept. of Agri., Cooperation & FW, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030, Telangana, INDIA. Telephone: 9140-24015374.
E-mail: niphm@nic.in, http://niphm.gov.in

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 07/2019

National Institute of Plant Health Management invites applications for the following posts. The gist of pay and the number of posts are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Direct / Deputation*	No. of Posts	Reservation for Direct Recruitment as per roster	Scale of Pay / Pay in Pay Matrix (7 th CPC)	Last Date for receipt of applications
1	Director (Pesticide Management)	Deputation*	01	NA	Level-13A (Rs. 1,31,100-2,16,600)	30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News
2	Joint Director (Plant Protection)	Direct / Deputation*	01	OBC	Level-12 (Rs. 78,800-2,09,200)	
3	Asst. Scientific Officer (Entomology)	Direct / Deputation*	01	UR	Level-6 (Rs. 35,400-1,12,400)	

*Rule of reservation does not apply for candidates applying on deputation basis
The details of educational qualifications, experience, age and other eligibility criteria etc. along with application proforma may be accessed from web <http://niphm.gov.in> Sd/- REGISTRAR /ic

PUBLIC NOTICE

In view of safety and security of little children studying at Nursery Schools located at Group Housing component (namely Wembley Estate) of the residential colony named Rosewood City at Sector 49 & 50, Gurugram, the Town & Country Planning Department, Haryana has kindly accorded its approval in principle for raised building plans for the aforesaid Nursery Schools thereby permitting construction of boundary wall including grill / fence having height not more than 2.4 metres (with a Wicket Gate) on the open side of the aforesaid Nursery School adjoining the peripheral road of the said Group Housing component.

The earlier approved building plans and the revised building plans of the aforesaid Nursery Schools are available at our Estate Office in the first basement of Eros City Square, Rosewood City, Sector 49 & 50, Gurugram and also on our website (www.eros-group.com) for inspection.

In case any existing allottee of aforesaid Group Housing component has any objection to the above stated amendment in the building plans of the aforesaid Nursery Schools, then he / she may convey his / her objections in writing to the office of the Senior Town Planner, Gurugram within 30 days from the date of this public notice.

General Manager
Ajay Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
Rosewood City, Sector 49 & 50, Gurugram
Dated: 12/10/2019

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6665 8282 Fax: 91 22 6665 8801
CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Email: tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that Wednesday, 30th October 2019 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of:

i. Payment of annual interest to the holders of 3,000 - 7.99% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures Series I (ISIN:INE245A08091);

ii. Payment of annual interest to the holders of 3,000 - 7.99% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures Series II (ISIN:INE245A08109);

iii. Payment of annual interest to the holders of 3,000 - 7.99% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures Series III (ISIN:INE245A08117);

iv. Payment of annual interest to the holders of 3,000 - 7.99% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures Series IV (ISIN:INE245A08125) and

v. Payment of annual interest to the holders of 3,000 - 7.99% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures Series V (ISIN:INE245A08133);

all due on 15th November 2019

For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai
Dated: 11th October 2019

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6665 8282 Fax: 91 22 6665 8801
CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Email: tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that Wednesday, 30th October 2019 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of Payment of annual interest and redemption proceeds to the holders of 5,000 - 9.48% Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN:INE245A08067), due on 15th November 2019.

For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai
Dated: 11th October 2019

Government of India
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Appointment of Director General, NIMSME, Hyderabad

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up the post of Director General, National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad on deputation/ contract basis in the Pay Level 13A (7th CPC). Detailed conditions of appointment and application proforma are available on the Ministry's website: msme.gov.in. Interested candidates may send their application within 30 days from the date of publication of this Advertisement in the Employment News to **The Under Secretary (HR), Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Room No. 429-D, Udyog Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011.** davp 25101/11/0005/1920

Govt. of India
National Institute of Public Health Training & Research, Mumbai
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Recruitment of Consultants & Staff on Contractual Basis

NATIONAL Institute of Public Health Training & Research, Mumbai (NIPHTR), formerly known as Family Welfare Training and Research Centre, Mumbai, a Central Training Institute of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is primarily involved in training of Medical & Paramedical personnel in Public Health, Health Education, Promotion and Research. Applications are invited for the following posts on purely contract basis for one year.

S. No.	Post	No	Qualifications	Consolidated pay/month
1	Consultant-Public Health	1	Medical Postgraduate in Community Medicine/Public Health with 3-5 years experience in Health Management and Research.	80,000
2	Consultant- IEC	1	Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in Mass Communication/ Social Work/ Rural Development from a recognized Institute with 5 years' experience in Advertising / Media Industry/ Social Media Communication.	60,000
3	Consultant- Training	1	Post Graduate Degree/Diploma with 5 years' experience in developing & evaluating training programmes. Preference will be given for post graduation in Public Health/ Preventive & Social Medicine.	60,000
4	Statistical Officer	1	Postgraduate degree in statistics from recognized institute.	40,000
5	Sociologist	1	Post graduate in sociology from recognized institute with 3 years' experience.	40,000

The last day for receipt of application will be **31st October 2019**. Duly completed application form along with necessary documents must reach the undersigned by Registered post/Speed post within stipulated time along with a **demand draft of Rs. 500/-** (Rs. Five Hundred only) and **Rs. 200/-** (Rs. Two Hundred only) in case of SC/ST applicants in favor of "Director, National Institute of Public Health Training & Research, Mumbai" payable at Mumbai. For further details regarding eligibility criteria, application format, list of supporting documents and other information please visit website: <http://www.fwtrc.gov.in>

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
NIPHTR, Mumbai

1 killed, two injured in Jehanabad after tension over idol immersion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, OCTOBER 11

ONE PERSON was killed and another injured on Friday during communal violence in Jehanabad, where tension had been building since Thursday evening over immersion of Durga idol.

Police have arrested 12 people from both sides. On Friday morning, Vishnu Yadav and Bittu Yadav, both residents of Gorakshni which is adjoining the Muslim-dominated Jafarganj area, were reportedly standing in front of their house when around a dozen people arrived and one of them shot at the duo. Vishnu was hit on the head and Bittu on his leg. Both were admitted to hospital, but Vishnu (22) died a few hours later.

Jehanabad District Magistrate Naveen Kumar confirmed one death. "We have arrested 12 people. There has been adequate police deployment. The situation is under control now," he said.

Tension prevailed since

Thursday evening over the routes of Durga idol procession. As the idols passed through Muslim-dominated belts, there was tension between two communities, followed by stone-pelting and torching of vehicles. The tension allegedly started after a stone hit a Durga idol.

The district administration, however, ensured that all the idols were immersed by Thursday late evening with extra police deployment.

Police sources said Vishnu that had nothing to do with Thursday's violence and that he became a "random target" during a bid by some people to provoke communal violence.

DGP Gupteshwar Pandey said the incident was a "skirmish between antisocial elements which followed opening of fire from one side". The situation is under control after the early morning incident, he added.

Prohibitory orders were issued under Section 144 of CrPC, heavy deployment of forces was put in place, and the DM and SP Manish camped in the area.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

UNNAO RAPE VICTIM ACCIDENT CASE

CBI files chargesheet, drops murder charge against Sengar

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 11

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation has dropped murder charges against MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in connection with the July 28 incident in which the Unnao rape victim and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts were killed after their vehicle was hit by a truck in Rae Bareilly.

According to the chargesheet filed in a special court in Lucknow on Friday, the CBI investigation found that the incident occurred due to rash driving.

The occupants of the car were on way to Rae Bareilly jail to meet the rape victim's uncle when the incident occurred in the Gurubakganj police station area. Sengar is also lodged in jail since last year on rape charges.



Kuldeep Singh Sengar is lodged in jail since last year on rape charges

The CBI, which is investigating the case on the recommendation of the Uttar Pradesh government, filed the chargesheet against 11 people, including the MLA, his brother Mahesh Singh Sengar and truck driver Ashish Kumar Pal. Other accused include Harpal Singh, husband of Shashi Singh who is co-accused in the rape case with MLA Sengar, and his son Naveen Singh.

"Today, the CBI filed chargesheet against 11 persons including MLA Kuldeep Sengar and truck driver Ashish Kumar Pal in the court of Special Judicial Magistrate, Lucknow. Among the 11 persons chargesheeted, 10 were named in the FIR lodged by the rape victim's uncle. These 10 persons have been chargesheeted under IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 506-(2) (punishment for criminal intimidation)," said CBI spokesperson R K Gaur.

"Truck driver Ashish Kumar Pal has been chargesheeted under IPC section 304-A (causing death by negligence), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way)," he added.

The FIR was lodged on a complaint by the rape victim's uncle against 10 people including MLA

Sengar on charges of murder, attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy and criminal intimidation.

The complainant had alleged that his family, including his wife (who died in the July 28 incident), used to tell him that MLA Sengar and his men were regularly threatening them and pressing them to change statements in court.

The uncle had stated that the accused had threatened that his family would be killed in a road accident if they did not reach a compromise with them.

He also alleged that the MLA's associate forced his family to speak to Sengar with their phone.

The CBI took over the investigation after lodging the FIR on July 30.

In July this year, an Unnao court sentenced the uncle to 10 years' imprisonment in a 2010 attempt to murder case.

MP considers cess to fund projects for cows

MILIND GHATAI
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 11

THE MADHYA Pradesh government is considering a 'cow cess' to raise funds for its cow welfare activities, like Project Gausshala, which is running way behind schedule.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath gave an indication to this effect on Friday while reviewing Project Gausshala at a meeting where a presentation was made on different kinds of cess either being imposed or considered by governments of Punjab, Rajasthan, UP and Haryana.

These state governments are either collecting or proposing to collect cess from purchase of foreign liquor, new vehicles, non-judicial stamps, entertainment tax, profit-making public sector undertakings and electricity bills. Sources told *The Indian Express* that the CM asked the additional chief secretary (finance) to examine the proposal.

Nath expressed displeasure at the slow pace of work on building 1,000 gausshalas (cow

shelters). In keeping with the party manifesto for the Assembly election, the Congress government had announced early this year that it would build 1,000 gausshalas and accused the BJP of not building any government gausshalas during its long rule in the state.

He emphasised better coordination between the rural development department, which is building the gausshalas, and the animal husbandry department. Announcing that 3,000 gausshalas would be built in 2020, he said that by December, spots should be finalised and relevant permissions secured.

Before the meeting began, veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "The MP government should immediately remove the stray cows and send them to gausshalas or cow sanctuary. Kamal Nathji if he could do so immediately you will be counted among true gau bhaktas and so-called BJP leaders' will get guidance."

"It's true that the cow is a symbol of faith and pride for us, not politics," the CM responded.

3-month rural stint to be mandatory for postgraduate medical students

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL students will have to compulsorily serve three months in a district hospital before they get their degrees. The decision of the Board of Governors (BoG) of Medical Council of India was on Friday endorsed by the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFV) — the apex advisory body with representation from state governments, legislature, health ministry, NITI Aayog, etc.

The resolution adopted at the meeting reads: "Considering the importance of medical education, the CCHFV resolves to take steps to increase the availability of doctors and specialists in the country to improve access to quality and affordable health care. The CCHFV further resolves for adoption and smooth implementation of District Residency Programme as may be provided for by MCI through regulations."

A source present in the meeting said: "The MCI Board of

EXPLAINED Move may be resisted by students, colleges

UNLIKE UNDERGRADUATE medical students who see patients only towards the latter part of their programme, postgraduate medical students see patients throughout their course — in a way, PG medical programmes entail on-the-job learning. To introduce a rural stint into this, irrespective of whether the student is pursuing the programme in a government or private college, is likely to be contentious and may be resisted not just by students but also by colleges and hospitals.

Governors have already taken a decision that PG medical students should not earn their degrees unless they serve three months of their three-year course in a district hospital in a rural area... The decision was endorsed by the CCHFV. We are hoping this will be enforced from next year. Any person who has not done this will not get his or her degree or registration for practice of medicine."

BoG chairman Dr Vinod Paul is a member of NITI Aayog as well as of the CCHFV.

Union Health Ministry officials said it is yet to receive a formal proposal, but is in-principle in favour of the idea. "The plan was discussed in today's meeting, and what the BoG wants was explained to the ministers, who were in favour of a mandatory three-month rural residency. But when that will happen, at what stage of the PG programme, will have to be worked out in association with respective states because it is a concurrent subject," said a senior ministry official.

Endorsement by states is essential because health is a state subject and medical education is in the concurrent list, so while the MCI (BoG) sets policy direction, the actual implementation will have to be done by states.

Mandatory rural posting has for long been a thorny issue, with successive governments pushing for it on the ground that medical education is heavily subsidised and students have an obligation to serve.

States like Gujarat and Maharashtra had made one-year rural postings mandatory for UG medical students, but this has been challenged in court.

Maharashtra subsequently reserved seats in both UG and PG medical courses for students willing to serve in rural areas after they earned their degree. UP has introduced a compulsory rural service bond for both UG and PG medical students.

Telangana's decision to enforce a one-year rural posting into rough weather before the government was allowed to bring a legislation rescinding that plan.

UP: Four held for 'links' with terror funding racket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 11

UTTAR PRADESH'S Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), in a joint operation with Lakhimpur Kheri police, on Thursday arrested four people for their alleged involvement in a terror funding network across India.

Police have recovered Rs 4.75 lakh in Indian currency and Nepalese Rs 1.35 lakh.

The four suspects — Ummed Ali, Sanjay Agarwal, Sameer Salmani alias Sonu and Airaj Ali — were arrested from Nighasan area of Kheri district in the night.

While Salmani is a native of Bareilly, others belong to Lakhimpur Kheri. Police seized their cellphones and were trying to retrieve call data.

The suspects were produced before a local court, which sent them to jail, said Additional Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shailendra Lal. UP DGP Om Prakash Singh said the case would be transferred to the ATS for investigation. "If need be, the ATS will seek police remand of the accused," said Singh.

According to the police, two residents of Nepal — Vijay Singh and Chandra Bhuda — used to transfer money to the accused.

The Nepal Police had arrested the duo in connection

with another case. The DGP said the money sent from the neighbouring country was allegedly then handed over to those involved in terror activities.

Police claimed that during interrogation, the four men told them that they used to transfer money on directions of four other men — Mumtaz, Faheen and Sadakat Ali of Bareilly and Sirajudeen, whose hometown or current address has not been ascertained. The UP Police is conducting raids to trace them.

The arrested men also told the police that they would get money transferred from other countries to some bank accounts in Nepal, said an officer.

The money would later be withdrawn, brought to India and converted to Indian currency.

The arrested men used to get a 6 per cent commission for handing over the money to Faheen and Sadakat, police said. The duo would take the cash to Delhi for anti-national activities, police said, quoting the arrested men. It also came to light that the Janakpur branch of Nepal's Rashtra Bank was hacked recently and Nepalese Rs 49 lakh was transferred to the bank accounts Vijay Singh and Chandra Bhuda, both residents of Kailali district in Nepal. The duo allegedly routed the stolen money to India through different sources.

IRS officer booked for using fake identity to clear UPSC exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE CBI has filed a case against an Indian Revenue Service officer for allegedly using the identity of another person, five-year junior to him, to appear in the UPSC examination in 2007, officials said on Friday.

The agency has booked Navneet Kumar, a 2007-batch IRS officer of customs and central excise, for submitting fake date of birth and educational certificates to qualify in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination, they said.

Kumar is suspected to be Rajesh Kumar Sharma, who became overage for the examination in 2007 and used the identity of the former to qualify the civil services examination, they said.

Born on June 15, 1980, Navneet had passed high school in 1996 and intermediate and graduation in 2003 and 2008 respectively, the agency has al-

leged. The agency alleged that Sharma passed Class X in 1991 and Class XII in 1993 from CBSE Board in Bettiah.

"When Rajesh Kumar Sharma got overaged for the UPSC exam, he changed identity and obtained certificate in the name of Navneet Kumar keeping the father's name and address the same," the CBI has alleged.

During the verification exercise, certificates issued by the Deputy Electoral Officer, Bettiah and statements of the village head, former village head and other inhabitants of the village indicated that Navneet Kumar is an adopted identity of Rajesh Kumar Sharma, they said.

The agency found that Kumar has not submitted any date of birth certificate and intermediate examination certificate passed by him in 2003 to the department so far.

The CBI also found that examination board Bihar Vidyalaya Pariksha Samiti did not co-operate in providing the required details of Kumar, they said.

Cop 'assaults' two in Gorakhpur jail, prisoners go on rampage

Lucknow: Prisoners of the Gorakhpur district jail on Friday damaged property on the premises and assaulted two jail officials after two inmates were allegedly assaulted by a deputy SP during interrogation in a murder case, previous day.

The prisoners demanded ac-

tion against Deputy SP Praveen Singh, posted as Circle Officer of Gorakhnath area in Gorakhpur.

The district magistrate ordered an inquiry to check Singh's claim that he was authorised by the court to interrogate the two prisoners — Koyal Yadav and Govind Yadav. **ENS**

Saxophonist, who raised the bar for Carnatic music, dies at 69

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

VATAPI GANAPATHIM Bhaje, a Sanskrit kriti by poet-composer Muthuswami Dikshitar that is well known for over two centuries now, is often played in Carnatic *katcheris* and has even made its way into Hindustani classical music. The ode to Vatapi Ganapati, an avatar of Ganesh worshipped in Uthrapathiswaraswamy Temple of Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, is based on *Raga Hamsadhvani* and is traditionally played at the beginning of a classical concert. In the 1980s, Kadri Gopalnath, dressed in a veshti and a kurta, would walk up on the stage in various auditoriums in Tamil Nadu with his saxophone, and play this

Dikshitar hymn on the brass woodwind instrument used mostly in military and jazz bands. "Be it any festival, the shubharambh had to be with Gopalnath paying an ode to Ganesh on the saxophone," says friend and colleague Aruna Sairam.

Kadri Gopalnath, the name synonymous with saxophone in India and who raised the bar of Carnatic classical music by playing it on this western instrument with all the *gamakas* (a precise technique of ornamentation) and microtones in place, passed away on Friday after a brief illness. He was 69. Gopalnath was admitted to AJ Hospital and Research Centre on October 10 after he complained of back pain, and died of cardiac arrest. He is survived by



KADRI GOPALNATH
1949-2019

wife Sarojini, sons, composer Manikant Kadri and Guruprasad Kadri, and daughter Ambika.

It is not often that a musician devotes a lifetime integrating a western instrument into an extremely traditional and strict system of classical music. Gopalnath

took along with him the rigid system of Carnatic classical music and improvised alongside, just like a jazz saxophonist would. The spontaneous inventions of melodic solos along with the classical *gamakas* and microtones were new to those who heard, and in a while readily accepted. Gopalnath hit the headlines in the 1980s and became the toast of the Carnatic music world.

"There was a lot of hard work involved in taking a western classical instrument and bringing out those microtones that form the basis of Hindustani and Carnatic classical music. Another bit was to get accepted by the people. The instrument sounded very different on the proscenium stage. It called for a different kind of artistic excellence to be able to find

that appreciation from people," adds Sairam. Born into a family of Nadhaswaram players at Sajeepa Mooda village in Mangalore, Gopalnath's training began in Nadhaswaram. He also studied vocal music. He was 15 when he first saw a saxophone. It was being played at the Mysore Royal Palace by a British band. The shiny instrument caught his eye, and his father bought him one for Rs 800 from a police band. Over the next 20 years, Gopalnath figured out its workings and learned how to incorporate it in the world of classical music.

In the western system, saxophones are played standing up. But Gopalnath sat on the ground and played it like a classical musician. He took its staccato notes and stretched them by modifying the

instrument. "He expanded the horizon of Carnatic music like no other artiste has. He also inspired many saxophone players. So many musicians in the Carnatic system are taking up saxophone as their instrument of choice," says Kumeresh of the violinist duo Ganesh-Kumaresh.

Gopalnath was the first Carnatic musician to be invited for the BBC Promenade concert at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1994. He performed at jazz festivals abroad, including the Jazz Festival in Prague, the Berlin Jazz Festival, the International Cervantino Festival in Mexico and the Music Hall Festival in Paris. He also composed music for Tamil films. Virtually a cult figure, Gopalnath was fondly called Saxophone Chakravarthy.

E-Tender Notice

1. Organisation	Maharashtra Police
2. Department	Maharashtra Coastal Police, State Intelligence Department, Maharashtra
3. Tender reference number & Date	SID/IGP-CS/8/AMC/TENDER-4/2019
4. Description	Provision of Comprehensive Maintenance for Boats of Maharashtra Coastal Police as follows- Goa Shipyard Built FRP 27 Nos. & Marine Frontier Built Aluminum Hull 28 Nos. (Total Boats 55 Nos.).
5. Bidding Type	Two Bid System (Technical & Commercial)
6. Bid Validity	120 days
7. Bid Closing Date	30 th October 2019, 04.00 PM
8. Pre-bid Meeting Date, Time and Venue	Date : 18 th October 2019 Time : 02.00 PM Venue : Conference Room, Coastal Security, SID, Sir Bhalchandra Road, Behind Swami Narayan Mandir, Dadar (East), Mumbai-400 014
9. Bid Opening Authority	Board Constituted by Maharashtra Coastal Police
10. Address	Coastal Security (Maharashtra Coastal Police) State Intelligence Department, Sir Bhalchandra Road, Behind Swami Narayan Mandir, Dadar East, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400 014.
11. Contact Details	Shri Madhukar Sawant, Assistant Commissioner, SID (Coastal Security)- 8097627522/ 022 24157831 E-mail : accoastal-mum@mahapolice.gov.in
Online EMD	INR 10,00,000/- (INR Ten Lakhs Only)
Tender Fee	INR 25,000/- (INR Twenty Five Thousand Only)

DGIIPR/2019-2020/3379

JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, TALAB TALLOX GOLE PULL, JAMMU
[0191-250581(O), 2501219 (Telexfax)]
E-mail: dirhort@jammu-jk@nic.in

E-NIT No: Horti/Pur/01 of 2019-20 Dated: 03.10.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, Accounts Officer Directorate of Horticulture Jammu invites e-tenders from Original/Principal Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers for empannelment and fixing of annual rate contract for supply of GI Pipes, MS Conduit Pipes and other items with ISI Mark required for fabrication of Tubular Structures/Shade House Structures at Plant Protection Workshop & Stores Udhaywalla, Jammu:-

Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Bid Documents
Supply of G.I. Pipes, MS Conduit Pipes and other items as per BOQ for fabrication of Tubular Structures at Plant Protection Workshop and Stores Udhaywalla, Jammu.	Rs. 20.00 lacs	Rs. 40,000/-	Rs. 1,000/-

The critical dates are as follows:-
1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from Dt: 05.10.2019 from 04.00 P.M.
Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary, DLPC
DIPJ-7424

कार्यालय नगरपालिका निगम, कटनी, म.प्र.
क्रमांक/3831/ लोपोपिठो/निर्माण/2019 प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना कटनी, दिनांक- 10.10.2019

नगरपालिका निगम, कटनी द्वारा निम्नानुसार कार्यो के डी पी आर तयार कराने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाये <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर **key date & Time** अनुसार काउन्सिल ऑफ आर्किटेक्ट (C.O.A) में पंजीकृत बास्कुवियो / कंसल्टंटो / फर्म से आमंत्रित की जाती है। समस्त जानकारी, शर्त, कार्यो का विवरण एवं निविदा शेड्यूल का अवलोकन लोक निर्माण विभाग, नगरपालिका निगम कटनी में किसी भी कार्यालयीन कार्य दिवस में एवं पोर्टल <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

क्र.	कार्य का स्थल	अमानत राशि (रुपये में)	समय अवधि (दिनों में)	निविदा पत्र का मूल्य रुपये में	निविदा आमंत्रण का क्रम
1.	Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of consultant for Architectural and Allied services with Project Management Consultancy for Commercial/office /Residential/Infrastructure and other project under Municipal, Corporation Katali,	50000	02 वर्ष	5000	प्रथम

नोट - शासन द्वारा जारी आदेशों का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो अनुबंध का एक अंग होगा निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन होता है तो वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा, समाचार पत्रों में नहीं।
1) निविदा प्रपत्र कब करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि 14.10.2019 को सायंकाल 5.30 से। 2) प्री ब्रीड मॉटिंग दिनांक 25.10.2019 को दोपहर 12:00 बजे से। 3) निविदा प्रपत्र बिड प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 14.11.2019 को सायंकाल 5.30 बजे तक। 4) दस्तावेजों की हार्ड प्रति प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 15.11.2019 को सायंकाल 5.30 बजे तक। 4) बिड खोलने की तिथि 18.11.2019 को दोप. 03:00 बजे से।
कार्यालय नगरी
वास्ते- आस्वत्ता
नगरपालिका निगम, कटनी

TELLING NUMBERS

2.2 billion people worldwide living with eye conditions, preventable in 1 billion: WHO



At an eye operation camp in Chandigarh in 2012. Express Archive

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) released its first World Vision Report this week, proposing ways to address challenges such as integrating eye care into healthcare systems. The report found that globally, over 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment. In a telling finding, the report said that out of these 2.2 billion, 1 billion people are suffering from conditions that are preventable, or unaddressed. A majority of the cases among these 1 billion cases are of unaddressed presbyopia, at 826 million. This is followed by unaddressed refractive error, at over 120 million.

Rural communities, low-income countries and older people bear the brunt of these impairments, the report said. For instance, the age-specific prevalence of presenting distance vision impairment in an urban population of Delhi (20% prevalence among 60-69-year-olds) was one-third lower than that of a rural population in Northern India (28%).

The report estimated that over 11.9 million globally have conditions such as glaucoma, trachoma and diabetic retinopathy, which could have been prevented. The estimated cost of preventing conditions among these 11.9 million people is over \$5.8 billion.

Surgeries for cataract, which is the leading cause of blindness globally, have shown improvements over time, in low middle-income countries. In

PEOPLE LIVING WITH EYE CONDITIONS (2.2 BILLION)

Myopia	2,600 mn
Age-related macular degeneration	196 mn
Diabetic retinopathy	146 mn
Glaucoma	76 mn
Trachomatous trichiasis	2.5 mn
Presbyopia	1.8 mn

PEOPLE WITH PREVENTABLE/ UNADDRESSED EYE CONDITIONS (1 BILLION)

Unaddressed refractive error	123.7 mn
Cataract	65.2 mn
Glaucoma	6.9 mn
Corneal opacities	4.2 mn
Diabetic retinopathy	3 mn
Trachoma	2 mn
Unaddressed presbyopia	826 mn

Source: WHO

India the rate of cataract surgery has increased nine-fold (6,000 per million population) between 1981 and 2012. This has been possible due to the National Programme for Control of Blindness, which was launched in 1976 and under which cataract surgeries were performed on 6.5 million people in 2016-2017, the report said.

SIMPLY PUT

Delhi diplomacy to fight disaster

At climate summit in New York, PM Modi pushed the global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. As world observes International Day for Disaster Reduction, a look at the initiative India has taken

AMITABH SINHA
 PUNE, OCTOBER 11

WHILE SPEAKING at the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the launch of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and invited all countries to join it. Ahead of International Day for Disaster Reduction on Sunday, a look at what CDRI is.

What it proposes to do

Envisaged as an international knowledge platform where countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters, CDRI is the fruition of at least three years of discussions that India has had with more than 40 countries on this subject.

In simple terms, CDRI is an attempt to bring countries together to share and learn from the experiences of one another to protect their key infrastructure — highways, railways, power stations, communication lines, water channels, even housing — against disasters.

Need to protect infrastructure

Many countries, including India, have over the years developed robust disaster management practices that have helped in sharply reducing human casualties in a disaster. However, the economic costs of a disaster remain huge, mainly due to the damage caused to big infrastructure.

According to a recent estimate by the World Bank, Cyclone Fani, which hit Odisha in May this year, caused damage to the tune of \$4 billion. The losses in the Kerala floods last year could be in excess of \$4.4 billion, according to a post-disaster needs assessment report by the state government. In the US, there were 10 climate change disasters this year in which losses exceeded \$1 billion.

Much of the developing world is still building its basic infrastructure. Many developed countries are also in the process of replacing old infrastructure that have completed their lifetimes. Future infrastructure needs to take into account the heightened risks arising out



The Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar during Cyclone Fani earlier this year. The World Bank estimates the damage caused by Fani at \$4 billion. ANI

of the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and other adverse impacts of climate change. Even existing infrastructure would need to be retrofitted to make them more resilient. Disaster-proofing a project would involve changes in design, and use of newer technologies. These involve additional costs which, however, are only a fraction of the losses that a disaster can bring.

"We have pretty good evidence to show that wherever we have made investments in making infrastructure more resilient, over a period of time that investment has basically paid for itself," said Kamal Kishore, member of National Disaster Management Authority. The NDMA is operating as the interim secretariat of CDRI as of now.

An international forum

Disaster preparedness and infrastructure creation are largely national endeavours. However, modern infrastructure is also a web of networked systems, not always confined to national boundaries. There are increasing numbers of trans-national and trans-continental highways and railways; transmission lines carry electricity across countries; assets on a river are shared. Damage to any one node can have cascading impacts on the entire network, resulting in loss of livelihoods

and disruption in economic activity in places far away from the site of a disaster.

To make entire networks resilient is the main thought behind the Indian initiative of CDRI. The platform is not meant to plan or execute infrastructure projects. Nor is it an agency that will finance infrastructure projects in member countries. Instead, CDRI will seek to identify and promote best practices, provide access to capacity building, and work towards standardisation of designs, processes and regulations relating to infrastructure creation and management. It would also attempt to identify and estimate the risks to, and from, large infrastructure in the event of different kinds of disasters in member countries.

CDRI hopes to have as its members not just countries, but organisations like UN bodies, financial institutions, and other groups working on disaster management. It seeks to help member countries integrate disaster management policies in all their activities, set up institutions and regulatory provisions to ensure creation of resilient infrastructure, and identify and use affordable finance and technology.

CDRI and Belt Road Initiative

CDRI has sometimes been seen as India's response to the Belt Road Initiative, China's ongoing multi-billion-dollar programme to recre-

ate the ancient Silk Route trading links. China is building massive new land and maritime infrastructure in several countries. India and some other nations view this as an attempt by China to use its economic and military heft to usurp strategic assets in other countries.

Though the comparisons are not surprising given the competing strategic interests of the two neighbours, the magnitude and purpose of the two initiatives are starkly different. Unlike BRI, CDRI is not an attempt by India to create or fund infrastructure projects in other countries. Having said that, international initiatives like these are not without any strategic or diplomatic objective.

CDRI and Solar Alliance

A more relevant comparison of CDRI can, however, be made with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) that India launched at the climate meeting in Paris in 2015. ISA, which has evolved into a treaty-based organisation with more than 50 countries already signed up, aims at a collective effort to promote the deployment of solar energy across the world. Its objective is to mobilise more than \$1 trillion into solar power by 2030, and to deploy over 1,000 GW of solar generation capacity in member countries by that time. India hosts ISA, with its headquarters in Gurgaon.

The CDRI secretariat too would be based in New Delhi. While it is not envisioned to take the shape of a treaty-based organisation, CDRI can be seen as complementing ISA's efforts. ISA is about climate change mitigation — deployment of more solar energy would bring down the reliance on fossil fuels, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CDRI, on the other hand, is about adapting to climate change, a need that is inevitable.

With these two initiatives, India is seeking to obtain a leadership role, globally, in matters related to climate change.

Kishore of NDMA stressed, however, that CDRI is more than just a climate change initiative. "It does not matter whether the infrastructure is risk from climate-induced disasters or those taking place due to geophysical reasons, like earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides or tsunamis. The infrastructure needs to be strengthened to cope with all these," he said.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

Killer cyanide in Kerala: how is it monitored?

There are licences, permits. But in 2002, when 250 kg of the lethal toxin was seized; accused was fined Rs 250

SHAJU PHILIP
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 11

POLICE IN Kerala have arrested a woman for allegedly killing her husband, parents-in-law and three other members of the extended family over a period of 14 years using cyanide. The chemical was allegedly supplied to the woman by a jewellery salesman who procured it from a goldsmith. Both have been arraigned as accused in the case.

Cyanide is used in the extraction and polishing of gold, and for gold-plating. The ornament industry uses the chemical to give gold its reddish yellow colour, believed to be the "original" colour of the metal, and for ridding it of impurities.

Kerala is among the country's biggest consumers of gold jewellery. How is cyanide stocked in the state, and how is its distribution regulated?

The law and monitoring

The stocking and sale of cyanide is regu-

lated by The Kerala Poisons Rules, 1996, which were notified under The Poisons Act, 1919, which empowers state governments "to regulate possession for sale and sale of any poison".

The Drugs Control Department under the Government of Kerala's Health Department issues permits for stocking cyanide for professional use, and licences to stock and sell the chemical. Any individual or institution can apply for both under relevant sections of The Kerala Poisons Rules, 1996. The applicant must have a valid and legal reason to seek the permit or licence, as well as a technically qualified person to oversee the storage and handling of the lethal toxin.

Number of permits, licences

The Drugs Control Department says only 35 agencies — research institutions, universities, academic bodies, or labs in the government or private sector — have permits to stock cyanide.

An agency can at a time stock only 250 grams; the average annual cyanide intake of an institute in Kerala is 250 g to 500 g.

Cyanide crystals come in packets of 250 g. The chemical has an expiry date of three years from manufacture. Permits have to be renewed every year.

There are no valid cyanide licences — meant for sale of the chemical — in Kerala at present.

Legal source of the chemical

Cyanide is legally sourced from a Mumbai-based agency, which sells the chemical under strict restrictions to institutions or individuals who are able to furnish the relevant certificate issued by the Drugs Control Department. The permit-holder has to appear in person before the agency to procure the allotted quantity of chemical.

Smuggling and illegal imports

The industrial use of cyanide is allegedly dependent on smuggling or illegal imports. The small quantities involved make it difficult to detect and seize illegal consignments, officials said. A police officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector can *suo motu* register a case of

illegal trade in cyanide.

The last seizure of cyanide that officials could recall took place in 2002, when sales tax officials at an inter-state border checkpoint in Palakkad seized 250 kg of the chemical from a truck. The consignment, imported from Australia, was meant for an individual in Kozhikode. Investigations revealed the chemical was meant for the gold industry. The accused individual was convicted and fined a paltry Rs 250 as per the law.

What Kerala proposes to do

State Drugs Controller Ravi S Menon said it is proposed to amend The Kerala Poisons Rules in the wake of recurring incidents of acid attacks, as the use and stocking of acid also come under the purview of the Rules.

"We are planning to bring the use and stock of cyanide under the ambit of the proposed amendment in ways such that the accessibility of the public to cyanide is reduced. We also plan to incorporate sections to reduce the toxicity of the cyanide that is made available," Menon said.

THIS WORD MEANS

ELASTOCALORIC EFFECT

Cooling effect produced by twisting and untwisting of rubber bands. Can it be used in a fridge?

WHEN RUBBERS bands are twisted and untwisted, it produces a cooling effect. This is called the "elastocaloric" effect, and researchers have suggested that it can be used in a very relevant context today. Researchers from multiple universities, including Nankai University in China, have found that the elastocaloric effect, if harnessed, may be able to do away with the need of fluid refrigerants used in fridges and air-conditioners. These fluids are susceptible to leakages, and can contribute to global warming. The results of the research were published in the journal *Science* on Friday.

In the elastocaloric effect, the transfer of heat works much the same way as when fluid refrigerants are compressed and expanded. When a rubber band is stretched, it absorbs heat from its environment, and when it is released, it grad-

ually cools down. In order to figure out how the twisting mechanism might be able to enable a fridge, the researchers compared the cooling power of rubber fibres, nylon and polyethylene fishing lines and nickel-titanium wires. They observed high cooling from twisted changes in twisted, coiled and supercoiled fibres.

They reported that the level of efficiency of the heat exchange in rubber bands "is comparable to that of standard refrigerants and twice as high as stretching the same materials without twisting". To demonstrate this setup, the researchers developed a fridge the size of a ballpoint pen cartridge that was able to bring down the temperature of a small volume of water by 8°C in a few seconds. They suggested that their findings may lead to the development of greener, higher-efficiency and low-cost cooling technology.

Abiy Ahmed Ali, Laureate, for Peace in Horn of Africa: what was his role?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

ETHIOPIAN PRIME Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for "his important work to promote reconciliation, solidarity and social justice". In its citation, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said: "Abiy Ahmed Ali has initiated important reforms that give many citizens hope for a better life and a brighter future."



NOBEL IN PEACE

What Abiy did

When Abiy became Prime Minister in 2018, Ethiopia had been locked in conflict with Eritrea for 20 years. In July that year, the former Army officer-turned-PM, then 41, stepped across the border, held Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki in a warm embrace and signalled the beginning of a peace effort, announcing to the world that war was no longer an option.

The Nobel Committee noted how Abiy, in cooperation with Afwerki, worked out the

principles of a peace agreement, set out in declarations the two leaders signed in Asmara during that July visit and in Jeddah in September. It also listed domestic achievements by Abiy in his first 100 days as Prime Minister — lifting Emergency, granting amnesty to thousands of political prisoners, discontinuing media censorship, legalising outlawed opposition groups, dismissing military and civilian leaders suspected of corruption, and increasing the influence of women in political and community life.

The conflict, its roots

The stalemate Abiy helped break is about a border dispute that began in 1998. Conflict between the two

countries, however, has a longer history. Eritrea, once an Italian colony, was merged with Ethiopia in 1936 during Benito Mussolini's regime, then taken over by the British during the Second World War. After the War, a United Nations declaration in 1950 made Eritrea part of a federation with Ethiopia. When Eritrean groups launched



Ethiopia PM Abiy Ahmed (left), who has won the Nobel, helped usher in peace after reaching out to Eritrea President Isaias Afwerki (right). Reuters/File

a struggle for independence in 1961, Ethiopia dissolved the federation and annexed Eritrea in 1962. After a war that lasted 30 years, Eritrea gained international recognition as an independent country in 1993.

Just five years later, however, war broke out over the control of Badme, a border town both countries coveted. The violence, which

went on until an agreement to cease hostilities in 2000, claimed 80,000 lives and separated countless families. Since then, the two countries were in a state the Nobel Committee described as "no peace, no war".

What peace brings

In the two agreements during and after



called Eritrean numbers randomly, and vice versa, just to speak to someone on the other side, simply because they could. Others tracked down parents, siblings and friends," *The New York Times* reported.

Ethiopia is Africa's second largest country by population, but landlocked, while tiny Eritrea is connecting by sea to the Middle East. Through the years of conflict, Ethiopia had depended heavily on Djibouti for access to the Gulf of Aden and onward to the Arabian Sea. The peace deal opened up Eritrean ports for Ethiopian use.

Challenges ahead

While the peace effort is a step forward, ethnic rivalries in Ethiopia have flared in recent years and the country has millions of internally displaced refugees. "No doubt some people will think this year's prize is being awarded too early. The Norwegian Nobel Committee believes it is now that Abiy Ahmed's efforts deserve recognition and need encouragement," the Committee said.

It acknowledged Afwerki too: "Peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone. When Prime Minister Abiy reached out his hand, President Afwerki grasped it..."